January 7, 2022

Dear Sauquoit Valley School Community,

I hope this correspondence finds you doing well. As you most likely have heard, the Oneida County Department of Health (OCDOH) has released new guidance relative to orders of quarantine and isolation periods for the general population. This guidance does not specify nor rule out it’s use for schools, rather, the Department of Health has left it to the discretion of school Districts whether or not to adopt the new guidance. Under the new guidance, the previous ten (10) day quarantine/isolation periods now have the ability to be reduced to a minimum of five (5) days under specific guidelines as outlined later in this document. Effective today, January 7, 2022, our District will adopt this guidance which can be found at: https://oegov.net/sites/default/files/cxc/2022/covid/QuarantineGuidelines_01.06.22final.pdf. This is subject to change should future guidance dictate. Given the OCDOH’s support of this change in quarantine/isolation periods, we are hopeful that we can return students sooner to school and safely maintain our in-person mode of instruction. If parents so choose, you may continue to follow the 10-day quarantine period as we have been following and ask that you communicate that to your child’s school.

With the remaining supply of test kits that we received from New York State on January 1st, we will begin to test symptomatic students, in school, provided we have parent permission to do so. Students will not be required to be tested in school. Should your child be symptomatic while in school, you will need to have them seen by your medical provider and tested as deemed appropriate. We anticipate sending out parent permission forms for testing consent in the near future. If you approve of your child being tested at school you may sign and return the permission form to the school. No student will be tested without parental consent.

In the event your child has to quarantine, the school will continue to inform you of such as we have been all along. While you may not receive an official quarantine order from the County, we will follow the guidelines noted below. For this change in guidance to work safely and effectively, we all must continue to be vigilant and forthcoming in
monitoring symptoms and following all the health and safety protocols currently in place.

We thank you for your patience and consideration as we continue to do all that we can to maintain in-person instruction in a safe and healthy manner.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ronald Wheelock
Quarantine/Isolation Guidelines
Revised January 7, 2022

On January 6, 2022, the Oneida County Department of Health released new guidance relative to COVID-19 orders of quarantine and isolation. The following information represents the new guidance that will be followed at Sauquoit Valley Central School until such time as future guidance supersedes this. The official guidance from the County may be found at:
https://ocgov.net/sites/default/files/exec/2022/covid/QuarantineGuidelines_01.06.22final.pdf

Quarantine:

If a student or staff member has been considered a close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of a COVID positive individual), they will be required to quarantine for a minimum of five (5) full days as follows:

- Day 0 is the date of the last exposure to a positive case. The five day quarantine period begins the day after initial exposure. *(Ex: Last exposure on Monday, day 1 will be Tuesday and the last full day of quarantine will be Saturday, with a release from quarantine on Sunday (pending one is symptom free))*
- For ten (10) days after your close contact, you must monitor yourself for the following symptoms:

  Fever (100.4 degrees or greater; or have chills
  Cough
  Shortness of breath
  New loss of taste or smell
  Sore throat
  Congestion or runny nose
  Nausea or vomiting
  Diarrhea

- One may be released from quarantine after five (5) full days provided they have not developed symptoms noted above during this time.
**Isolation:**

If a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of symptoms or has symptoms of COVID-19, which includes those waiting for test results, then one must isolate themselves for at least five (5) days.

Guidelines for isolation include:

- Stay home and to the extent possible, stay away from other household members;
- Monitor your symptoms and if they worsen seek medical attention;
- Isolate yourself for a minimum of five (5) days. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms, or if asymptomatic, the day you were tested. Day 1 is the day after symptom onset or day after COVID test, if asymptomatic.
- You may exit isolation after five (5) full days if you are asymptomatic or if you have mild symptoms (Ex: Symptoms/tested on Monday, day 1 will be Tuesday and the last full day of isolation will be Saturday, with a release from isolation on Sunday).

**Mild Symptoms =**

- □ Fever free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.
- □ Do not have a runny nose
- □ No more than a minimal, non-productive cough

- Continue wearing a well-fitting mask around others in the home and in public for five (5) additional days (day 6 through day 10). If you are not able to wear a mask around others, you must continue isolating yourself for a full ten (10) days from your original onset of symptoms, or if asymptomatic, from the day you were tested.
- Should you continue to present with a fever or other symptoms have not improved after five (5) days of isolation, you must remain in isolation until you are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved.