

DAYTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

September 10, 2021

Greendevil Families:

We want to thank our Greendevil Community for all your efforts and support during these challenging times. We greatly appreciate the wonderful support we continue to receive from our school community.

Our goal as a district is to do everything possible to **maintain in-person instruction throughout the school year**. We have been working tirelessly to ensure that we are following all mitigation strategies to keep our students and staff safe. Even with everything in place, we have experienced COVID-19 cases that have resulted in quarantines for some of our families over the past three weeks. Our community incidence rates and our county incidence rates continue to be high and in the defined “Red Zone” for the spread of the virus. We must have everyone focused on lowering the spread of this virus if we are going to return to a “normal” school experience.

We do want to continue to encourage every staff member, student, and community member **who is eligible to receive the vaccine for Covid-19 to do so**. We strongly believe that everyone needs to seriously consider getting vaccinated and seek the advice of their health care provider to see if they recommend this vaccination for you and/or your child.

We currently have a partnership with Gravity Diagnostics to test students so that they may return to school earlier than the 10-day quarantine period. We are currently able to administer the PCR test (a type of COVID-19 test) to a student after their fifth day of exposure. Results are received the next day, which allows students to return after the seventh day of exposure, instead of the tenth day. This strategy has helped, but still requires a substantial quarantine from school.

Last week, we transitioned to a “TEST to STAY Program” for students who are exposed. This program, which follows the guidance of the NKY Health Department, would allow a student to attend school even if they have been **exposed at school** by following the criteria below:

- Show no symptoms
- Wear a mask indoors when at school
- Have been exposed to COVID-19 at school only
- Quarantine when not at school
- Test negative daily during the TEST to STAY Program

If your child is exposed at school, you will be contacted by school personnel to explain the TEST to STAY Program and discuss the location/time your child needs to arrive at school. All testing is done at school and is **free to all families**.

Students who are **fully vaccinated**, and **show no symptoms**, will not need to quarantine or test.

We are hopeful that the TEST to STAY Program will allow us to lessen or eliminate quarantine periods for students as we move forward. We greatly appreciate the efforts of our school health team for the fantastic job they are doing to be proactive and responsive to do everything possible to keep our students and staff safe and in school.

Sincerely,

Jay Brewer, Superintendent



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ENGAGE



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