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Summary: Student Vaccination Status Impacts NH Quarantine Requirements Due to Recent CDC / DHHS Changes.

May 26, 2022,

Dear Kearsarge Community, Staff, and Families,

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has informed New Hampshire Schools that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) updated quarantining requirements to account for the rising cases of COVID-19 among children. New CDC guidelines reflect recent changes to the availability of COVID-19 vaccinations for students age 5-11. As the New Hampshire Department of Health (DHHS) remains aligned with the CDC's quarantine requirements, DHHS is aligning their guidelines for school quarantining procedures in schools to reflect the CDC requirements, effective immediately.

Kearsarge Regional School District does not require COVID-19 vaccination for any student. However, DHHS continues to inform New Hampshire schools that vaccination, when layered with appropriate use of protective facial coverings, and social distancing, remain the best measures to prevent the spread and impact of COVID-19. As such, the District strongly encourages the use of these measures when appropriate.

While parents may not choose to vaccinate their children, a student's vaccination status does play a significant role in determining whether, when exposed to COVID-19, they may avoid quarantine from school. Specifically, to avoid quarantine, a child must be "Up to Date" in their vaccination status, as defined by DHHS standards. DHHS defines "Up to Date" status as the student has had the full course of COVID-19 vaccination available to them within a period of five months. For students 5-18, a booster is typically required 5 months after the final dose in their primary series to remain "Up to Date." Additionally, those students having had COVID-19 within three months of a new exposure are not required to vaccinate to avoid quarantine. However, DHHS does not consider those individuals who have had COVID-19 more than three months from the point of their new exposure to be "Up to Date", and the unvaccinated exposed student would need to quarantine.

For specific information regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters and "Up to Date" status, please visit the following:

- **CDC Site:**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>.
- **For NH DHHS Vaccine Guidance:**
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt476/files/documents2/covid-19-update60.pdf>

Respectfully,

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