

COVID-19 TRACING

How did we develop our communication process?

- Health and Safety subcommittee of our District's Reopening Committee
 - *Reviewed guidance documents put out by CDC, NYSDOH, and NCDOH*
- District Medical Coordinator and a Physician were part of the committee
- District's attorney and school physicians are consulted for assistance in interpreting guidance
- Health screening questions for students, staff, and visitors to the building came directly from Reopening NY guidance given to all districts by NYS
- DOH is notified and contact tracing commences

Important terms related to COVID-19 for schools

- Isolation: When someone actually tests positive for COVID-19
- Quarantine: When someone was exposed to/had close contact with a person who tested positive
- Close contact: Closer than "6 feet for longer than 10 minutes for 48 hours before the person's symptom onset to the person's isolation" as per NYS
 - *For someone who is asymptomatic, then it is 48 hours from the date of positive test*
- Proximate contact: someone in the same enclosed environment as the person who tested positive, but is greater than 6 feet from that person who tested positive
- Contact tracing: process of determining who the close contacts are of a confirmed case of COVID-19
- Mask breaks: Students must be at least 6 feet apart and masks cannot be off for longer than 10 minutes

What happens when we receive notification of a positive case?

- Schools can hear either from the family or the DOH
- All information is filtered through the building nurses and then to our Medical Coordinator/COVID Coordinator
 - *Building nurses will get more information from the family/staff member initially*
 - *COVID Coordinator contacts Administration and School physician*
 - *Facilities and Transportation departments are notified*
 - *COVID Coordinator calls DOH with information*
 - *DOH begins the process of contact tracing*

How is the school involved with contract tracing?

- Schools support the DOH's contact tracing efforts
- Initial information about situation is shared with DOH
- DOH connects with family to confirm positive case
 - *In some instances DOH does receive notification of positive cases first*
 - *If people opt to get a rapid test, it is possible that DOH will not receive notification and school will find out from family first*
 - *DOH conducts interview with family to get more detailed information about the symptoms they are experiencing and where the family has been*
- After DOH interviews family, DOH contacts the District to conduct in depth interview with the school(s) involved

What information does DOH need from the school(s)?

- School building student attends and grade of student
 - *For staff member, DOH will need to know the building(s) they have been in*
- Date of last attendance
 - *Contact tracing begins 48 hours prior to symptom onset or date of positive test if person is asymptomatic*
- Information about safety protocols put in place in each building
 - *Desk spacing, rooms students/staff are in, ventilation systems, desk shields, proximate contacts*
- How compliant students are with masks and how mask breaks are conducted
- How the student gets to school (i.e., do they take a bus?)
- DOH will ask to speak with building administration as well
 - *Building administration connect directly with staff in each classroom to obtain information*

What happens after the interview with DOH?

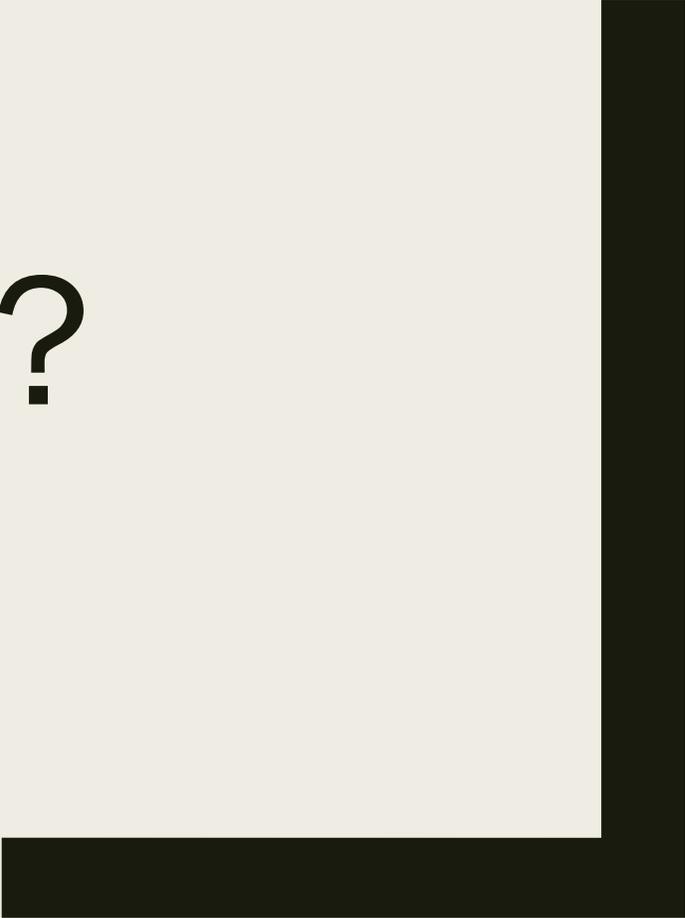
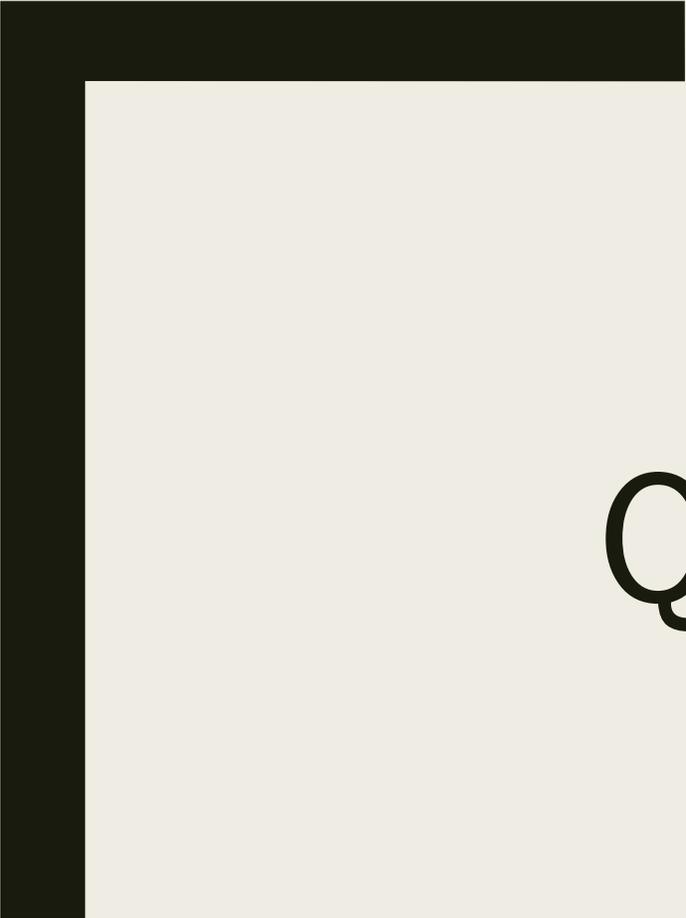
- Once DOH completes their interview, they advise the District of required response
 - *School can do more than what DOH advises and cannot do less than what they advise*
 - *School physician is alerted of DOH advice and provides any additional advice*
- DOH follows up directly with close contacts regarding need for quarantine
 - *Any close contacts will be monitored daily by DOH for 14 days*
 - *The family with the positive test is also monitored for a period of time to determine when student/staff can return to school/work*
 - *COVID Coordinator will connect periodically with family/staff member*
- District will send letters to the community apprising them of the situation and any potential school closures

When can people return to school?

- Close contacts are quarantined for 14 days from the date of last contact with the person who tested positive
 - *They can return after those 14 days provided no symptoms have developed*
 - *The DOH will provide clearance letter*
- People who test positive must remain home for at least 10 days
 - *They can return after 10 days from the onset of symptoms **AND** 24 hours of being fever free (without fever reducing medication) **AND** other symptoms are improving (Consistent with CDC most recent guidance)*
 - *The DOH will provide clearance letter*

What about people who have symptoms?

- Students and staff sent home with symptoms should follow up with the health care provider regarding their symptoms
- Current NYSDOH guidance indicate that those returning to school must “include at a minimum documentation from a health care provider evaluation, a negative COVID-19 testing, and symptom resolution”
 - *All three are required for anyone who has symptoms related to COVID-19*
 - *Follow up with building nurse or COVID Coordinator with specific situations*



QUESTIONS?