



COVID-19 TRACING

Updated 10/19/20



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 but 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?

Updated 10/5/20

- 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 72 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? *Updated 9/25/20*

- Students and staff **sent home** with symptoms should follow up with the health care provider regarding their symptoms
- Students and staff **who wake up** with symptoms should follow up with their health care provider regarding their symptoms
- Current NYSDOH guidance indicates that there are 3 items to be considered before a student or staff member can return after displaying symptoms
 - *Health care provider evaluation, Negative COVID-19 test, symptom resolution*
 - *Districts to develop specific procedures in consultation with NCDOH and school physician*
- Moving forward, in conjunction with NCDOH and our school physician, student or staff exhibiting symptoms must meet the following conditions to return to school
 - ***EITHER** a health care provider evaluation **OR** a negative COVID-19 test result*
 - *Symptoms **MUST** be resolved/resolving. Sick people should stay home regardless*
 - ***MUST** be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication*
- Follow up with building nurse or COVID Coordinator with any specific situations

Commonly Asked Questions *Updated*

10/19/20

- Why don't siblings of close contacts need to quarantine also?
 - *Siblings are considered “contacts of contacts”. Only those people who have been in close contact with the individual who tested positive are required to quarantine. Siblings have not been in close contact with the individual who tested positive.*
- Why isn't a negative COVID-19 test required for a person who previously tested positive to return to school?
 - *The virus can stay in a person's symptom for a period of time, and the person is no longer contagious. In addition, a person can continue to test positive for a period of time after they have had the virus and they are not contagious.*



QUESTIONS?