

## FAQs ON THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES OUTLINED IN NYSDOH and NYSED RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

(Information is based on NYSDOH or CDC guidance and is subject to change)

### 1.(PROTOCOLS FOR EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL) - Symptomatic students or staff members follow CDC's Stay Home When You Are Sick guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

- *Fever or chills*
- *Cough*
- *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
- *Fatigue*
- *Muscle or body aches*
- *Headache*
- *New loss of taste or smell*
- *Sore throat*
- *Congestion or runny nose*
- *Nausea or vomiting*
- *Diarrhea*

*Implement mandatory health screenings, including temperature checks, of students, faculty, staff, and, where applicable, contractors, vendors, and visitors to identify any individuals who may have COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. If an individual presents a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, the individual must be denied entry into the facility, or sent directly to a dedicated area prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home. (NYSDOH, p.18)*

*Use a daily screening questionnaire for faculty and staff reporting to school; and periodically use a questionnaire for students, particularly younger students, who may require the assistance of their parent/legal guardian to answer. The questionnaire should determine whether the individual has:*

- a) Knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19.*
- b) Tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.*
- c) Has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, in the past 14 days: and/or*
- d) Has traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days. (NYSDOH, p. 19)*

*Those positive for COVID would be placed in isolation for a minimum of 10 days from the time symptoms developed for symptomatic patients or 10 days from the date of test if asymptomatic. Positive patients would be released from isolation after completing 10 days of isolation if they are fever free (72 hrs.) and other symptoms have resolved.*

*\*Please note that school screening guidance states that anyone that has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days would not be permitted to enter the building.*

*Those that have been a direct contact, within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes, to a positive case but are not themselves positive will be placed in a 14-day quarantine. They must remain in quarantine for the complete 14 days unless they test positive during that time and then they would be subject to isolation and the requirements for release thereafter.*

*The local health dept may consult with the local district during investigations related to COVID-19. School districts may not be notified if the investigation of a cases shows that the student or staff would not have been in the school, during an infectious period.*

## **2.(PROTOCOLS FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL OF INDIVIDUALS) - Infected Individuals:**

**Requirements that persons who have tested positive complete isolation and have recovered and will not transmit COVID-19 when returning to in-person learning. Discharge from isolation and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department. (NYDOH p.6)**

*County residents that are placed in isolation or quarantine system will receive a release from isolation or quarantine letter after completing their isolation or quarantine period. These letters are generated from the Local Health Department where the student or staff reside, or from the New York State Contact Tracing Program. Students or staff will continue to be exclude or must participate in remote learning or work until documentation is produced.*

## **3.(PROTOCOLS FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL OF INDIVIDUALS) - Exposed Individuals:**

**Requirements that individuals who were exposed to the COVID-19 virus complete quarantine and have not developed symptoms before returning to in-person learning. Discharge from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department (NYDOH p.6)**

a) *Knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19.*

b) *Tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.*

c) *Has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, in the past 14 days: and/or*

d) *Has traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days. (NYSDOH, p. 19)*

*\*Please note that Counties have asked for additional guidance on this and we are anticipating NYSDOH will be issuing additional clinical guidance for healthcare providers and/or schools on these returns to school protocols.*

*Those positive for COVID would be placed in isolation for 10 days from the time symptoms developed for symptomatic patients or 10 days from the date of test if asymptomatic. Positive patients would be released from isolation after completing 10 days of isolation if they are fever free (72 hrs.) and other symptoms have resolved. Please note that school screening guidance states that anyone that has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days would not be permitted to enter the building.*

*County residents that are placed in isolation or quarantine will receive a release from isolation or quarantine letter after completing their isolation or quarantine period. These letters are generated from the Local Health Department where the student or staff reside, or from the New York State Contact Tracing Program. Students or staff will continue to be excluded or must participate in remote learning or work until documentation is provided.*

**4.(PROTOCOLS FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL OF INDIVIDUALS) – Screening Failure: Responsible Parties must establish policies, in consultation with the local health department(s), about the requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, who screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment. This returning to learning protocol must include at minimum documentation from a health care provider evaluation, negative COVID-19 testing, and symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation. (NYDOH p.20)**

a) *Knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19.*

b) *Tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.*

c) *Has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, in the past 14 days: and/or*

August 11, 2020

*d) Has traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days. (NYSDOH, p. 19)*

*Those positive for COVID would be placed in isolation for a minimum of 10 days from the time symptoms developed for symptomatic patients or 10 days from the date of test if asymptomatic. Positive patients would be released from isolation after completing 10 days of isolation if they are fever free (72 hrs.) and other symptoms have resolved.*

*\*Please note that Counties have asked for additional guidance on this and we are anticipating NYSDOH will be issuing additional clinical guidance for healthcare providers and/or schools on these returns to school protocols.*

**5. (PROTOCOLS FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL OF LARGER POPULATIONS) - Districts/schools must review and consider the number of students and staff allowed to return in person. These factors should be considered when determining resumption of in person instruction: (1) Ability to maintain appropriate social distance (2) PPE and cloth face mask availability (3) Availability of safe transportation (4) Local hospital capacity – consult your local department of health. (NYSED p.17)**

*Consult with Oswego Health to get local hospital capacity, this would fluctuate daily.*

**6. (PROTOCOLS FOR SCHOOLS TO NOTIFY DOH OF POSITIVE CASE) - Responsible Parties must notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual in school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors. (NYDOH p.20-21, NYSED p.40)**

*The Oswego County Health Department receives results of COVID-19 testing on all Oswego County residents regardless of where they are tested.*

*However, ALL POSITIVE CASES of COVID-19 be reported to the Oswego County Health Department, 315-349-3547 between 8:30-4:00 M-F. After hours, weekends or holidays, call the answering service at 315-341-0086, and ask for the Nursing Supervisor on call.*

*Districts are also advised to consult with their attorneys to confirm such reporting does not conflict with requirements of FERPA laws.*

**7.(PROTOCOLS FOR SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE CONTACT TRACING INFO) - Contact tracing is a public health function performed by local public health departments to trace all persons who had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in accordance with the protocol, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program. This allows public health officials to put in place isolation or other measures to limit the spread of the virus. Schools must cooperate with state and local health department contact tracing (note that confidentiality must be maintained as required by federal and state law and regulations.) Schools can assist public health departments in knowing who may have had contact at school with a confirmed case by: (NYDOH p.6, 21, NYSED p.41)**

*The Oswego County Health Department receives results of COVID-19 testing on all Oswego County residents regardless of where they are tested. Once a positive result is received local health department staff will notify the patient of positive and begin an investigation using guidelines developed NYSDOH. The investigation will look back two days from the time the patient developed symptoms or two days prior to the test date if the patient had no symptoms. The investigation would look to identify close contacts of the positive individual. Close contact is defined as within 6 ft of the infected individual for 10 minutes or more during the infectious period identified above (2 days prior to symptoms or two days prior to test collection date if patient does not have symptoms).*

*Names, contact information, dates and time in and out of rooms or buildings, attendance in school or buses, class rosters, or other information that may help us identify any close contacts and aid in the notification of those contacts:*

- *Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members.*
- *Ensuring student schedules are up to date.*
- *Keeping a log of any visitors which includes date, time and where in the school they visited.*

*The Oswego County Health Department would contact and notify any person identified as a close contact, based on current NYSDOH guidance*

**8.(PROTOCOLS FOR SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE CONTACT TRACING INFO) - Responsible Parties should partner with local health departments to train older students, faculty, and staff to undertake contact tracing efforts for populations in school facilities and on school grounds, where feasible. (NYDOH p.21)**

*At this time, the Oswego County Health Department will conduct all contract tracing in coordination with the NYS Contact Tracing Program. OCHD may ask for assistance from local school districts in identifying close contacts and for contact information for those identified as close contacts.*

**9.(PROTOCOLS FOR CORDONING, PARTIAL OR FULL CLOSURE) - Responsible Parties must include a process in their plan if/when COVID-19 cases are discovered at school, including closing areas or classes where individuals were infected or more broadly the entire school in consultation with the local health department. Responsible Parties do not necessarily need to close operations, if they can close off the affected areas (e.g., classroom, restroom, hallway), but they should consult with local health departments in development of their protocols. (NYDOH p.16, 21)**

*If able to close affected areas only, follow instructions for “Cleaning and Disinfecting your Facility” (CDC guidelines) or refer to the NYSDOH Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Cleaning and Disinfection Following Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Case, p. 16.*

*The Oswego County Health Dept. will assist local school districts and the NYSDOH to determine if a school district should consider closing a building or the entire district.*

**10.(PROTOCOLS FOR OUTBREAK MONITORING) - Responsible Parties should identify clearly defined measures that will serve as warning signs that the level of COVID-19 transmission may be increasing in the school setting beyond an acceptable level, as defined by state and local health departments. (NYDOH p.21)**

*OCHD will work with NYSDOH to determine metrics to serve as warning signs of increase COVID 19 transmission and will share with districts when available.*

**11. (PROTOCOLS FOR OUTBREAK MONITORING) - State and local health departments will implement monitoring and movement restrictions of COVID-19 infected or exposed persons, including isolation or quarantine. (NYDOH p.21)**

*Exclusion would be consistent with NYSDOH guidelines for isolation or quarantine for COVID-19 or other infectious diseases as appropriate. Those positive for COVID would be placed in isolation for 10 days from the time symptoms developed for symptomatic patients or 10 days from the date of test if asymptomatic. Positive patients would be released from isolation after completing 10 days of isolation if they are fever free (72 hrs.) and other symptoms have resolved or improved.*

*Those that have been a direct contact to a positive case but are not themselves positive will be placed in a 14 day quarantine. They must remain in quarantine for the complete 14 days unless they test positive during that time and then they would be subject to isolation and the requirements for release there. Please note that school screening guidance states that anyone that has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days would not be permitted to enter the building.*

*Refer to DOH's "Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure" regarding protocols and policies for faculty and staff seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the faculty or staff member had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19.*

**12.(PROTOCOLS FOR OUTBREAK MONITORING) - Schools must collaborate with their local health department to determine the parameters, conditions or metrics (e.g., increased absenteeism or increased illness in school community) that will serve as early warning signs that positive COVID-19 cases may be increasing beyond an acceptable level. School administrators should consider closing school if absentee rates impact the ability of the school to operate safely. Schools may choose to modify operations prior to closing to help mitigate a rise in cases. Schools should consult their medical director and/or the local department of health when making such decisions. (NYSESED p.42)**

*The Oswego County Health Department is consulting with NYSDOH on this and does not have an answer yet. OCHD will share this information with districts at such time it becomes available.*

**13.(LOCAL DOH PROVIDES RESOURCE LISTS) - It is strongly recommended that schools comply with CDC guidance and not conduct COVID-19 testing or require testing or antibody testing of students or staff members. The decision of whether a test needs to be conducted should be determined by a healthcare provider or the local department of health. CDC Interim Considerations for K-12 School Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing Schools should identify who in the community is responsible for referring, sourcing, and administering testing (e.g., local health department testing site, physician offices, hospital system) particularly in the event that large-scale testing at the school is needed. Schools wanting to perform COVID-19 testing must apply and be approved as a limited service laboratory (LSL). Please refer to the instructions and application materials, and if applicable, the worksheet for multiple locations. (NYSESED p.41)**

*Staff and families should be referred to their primary care providers to discuss testing. The Oswego County Health Dept. maintains a list of available testing locations on the Oswego County Health Department website at:*

<https://cms3.revize.com/revize/oswegonyhealth/COVID-19%20Testing%20Sites%207-21.pdf>

*School and community members can also call the Oswego County Health Department Covid-19 hotline at 315-349-3330, to inquire about testing locations.*

*If a cluster of COVID-19 cases are identified in a school population, the Oswego County Health Department would work under the NYSDOH guidance to discuss targeted testing in the impacted schools or district.*

**Please also be advised of the following Resources:**

NYSDOH Guideline Pre-K to Grade 12 Guidance

<https://forward.ny.gov/phase-four-industries>