

CoVid -19 Testing and Contract Tracing

Testing – If and when a student presents signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), the individual will be sent home. The parent or guardian of the student will consult with their child’s doctor to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19. Staff members who report any symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary care physician and discuss whether or not testing is appropriate. If a family does not have a doctor or the doctor is unavailable, individuals should call the Garnet Health Medical Center at 845-794-3300. For a list of testing sites in our region, please check out <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>.

Please note that when an individual with symptoms is tested for COVID-19, they are asked to quarantine by their healthcare provider until they receive their test result. If the test comes back negative, they are notified by their healthcare provider and no longer need to quarantine and may return to school after symptoms have resolved; unless the individual was placed into quarantine due to an exposure to a positive case. In this instance, the individual will complete the full quarantine period regardless of a negative test result. If the test comes back positive, they are notified by their healthcare provider and Sullivan County Health Department will contact them for a case investigation. The individual will be issued an order for isolation for a minimum of 10 days from symptom onset. The Health Department will conduct daily follow up and release individuals from isolation when appropriate.

Contact Tracing – The Sullivan County Health Department will be responsible for all contact tracing as they would any positive case of COVID-19 in Sullivan County. They will work closely with the school district and family to identify all close contacts (those who came within six feet of the positive case for at least 10 minutes). Those individuals will be notified and issued quarantine orders. They will receive daily follow up from Sullivan County staff to monitor symptoms and ensure compliance. The Sullivan County Health Department will provide the school district with guidance related to cleaning and disinfecting as well as additional testing of students or staff. School buildings of the positive case should be shut down for at least 24 hours for cleaning and disinfecting, and so that contact tracing can be done. School buildings, or applicable sections thereof, with positive cases should be shut down for at least 24 hours for cleaning and disinfecting, and so that contact tracing can be done. The school district will assist with contact tracing by:

1. Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members
2. Ensuring student schedules are up to date
3. Keeping a log of any visitor which includes date and time, and where in the school they visited
4. Assisting the local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual in accordance with the protocol, training, and tools provided through the NYS Contact Tracing Program

Confidentiality will be maintained as required by federal and state laws and regulations. School staff should not try to determine who is to be excluded from school based on contact without guidance and direction from the local health department.