

Updated New York State Department of Health Guidelines

As we all know, the fight against COVID-19 continues to evolve as new information is learned about the virus. In recent days, both the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) have modified guidelines related to the number of days individuals need to isolate or quarantine and have adjusted the process by which schools identify individuals who are required to quarantine based on exposure in school.

Quarantine Requirements For Exposure To Covid-19:

Consistent with recent CDC guidance, quarantine for individuals exposed to COVID-19 can end after ten days without a testing requirement if no symptoms have been reported during the quarantine period.

- Individuals must continue daily symptom monitoring through Day 14;
- Individuals must be counseled to continue strict adherence to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including hand hygiene and the use of face coverings, through Day 14.
- Individuals must be advised that if any symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and contact the local public health authority or their healthcare provider to report this change in clinical status and determine if they should seek testing.

These quarantine requirements are also applicable to travelers who are not essential workers and/or who did not complete the testing requirements described in Executive Order 205.2.

For the complete NYSDOH guidance [please click here](#).

Revised Guidelines for Identifying Individuals Who Must Quarantine:

In the past few days, the WCDOH issued new guidance that pertains to how individuals in schools are to be identified for quarantining. Here, the broad brush approach of quarantining everyone in a classroom or on a bus is no longer required. For example, if we can determine that proper social distancing was adhered to and masks were worn (as they always are except during breaks and meals), fewer individuals will be quarantined. This change will result in a much more complex process for the schools and the District, but it will reduce the number of students and teachers needing to be quarantined, providing for increased continuity of learning. To read more about the revised guidance, [please click here](#).

Important Testing Reminder

If your child awaits the results of a COVID-19 test, please advise the school accordingly and do not send them to school without clearance from the school nurse and principal. Such a situation specifically applies to those who are demonstrating COVID-like symptoms, have been in contact with a confirmed case of the virus or have been in contact with a suspected case.

Understandably, those who are participating in surveillance testing as a precautionary measure, may not be withheld from school; however, communication with the school nurse and principal are essential. Therefore, all parents are encouraged to maintain open lines of communication with their child(ren)'s school(s) to ensure that we can provide for the health and well-being of all students and staff.