

# Health and Safety Update

August 20, 2020

**Dr. Lisa Brady**  
Superintendent

**Dr. Amanda Jacobs**  
District Medical Director

**Ron Clamser, Jr.**  
Assistant Superintendent

# Agenda

- FAQ themes/topics:
  - HVAC/Ventilation information
  - Cleaning Procedures
  - Hygiene Practices
  - Westchester County Department of Health Guidance
  - Protocol for confirmed Covid-19 cases / exposure
- FAQ posted to Reopening Schools Website!

# Upcoming Informational Forums

## Special Education Parent Forum

- Monday 8/24 at 6 p.m.

## Facilities/HVAC

- Replacing HVAC filters with increased MERV 11 filtration which is the maximum capacity of what our HVAC systems are capable of. Guidance requires MERV 8.
- Opening windows and doors to increase outside air ventilation.
- Using HEPA filtered air purifiers in areas with no windows nor access to outside ventilation

## Facilities/Signage

- Establishing traffic flow in hallways, stairwells, and common areas
- Reminding people of proper handwashing, social distancing, and proper use of face masks
- Creating social distance markers where people might otherwise gather
- Reminding people of proper coughing & sneezing protocols

## Facilities/Cleaning

- Bathroom facilities cleaned twice daily
- Classroom spaces cleaned after each cohort use
- Common areas and frequent touch points cleaned throughout the day
- Comprehensive cleaning done districtwide on Wednesdays

## Facilities/PPE

- Supply of cloth face masks issued to staff & students
- Gloves, Face Shields, and disposable gowns available where needed
- Polycarbonate shields being installed in areas where frequent interaction occurs (security desk, main office, etc.)
- Touchless temperature kiosks at entrances for building visitors

# Facilities/Hygiene

- Installing additional portable hand washing stations near entrances and common areas (cafeteria, gym, etc.)
- Installing additional hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the building
- Placing additional trash receptacles throughout the building for disposal of soiled PPE
- Providing disinfectant wipes near frequent touch points (copier machine, telephone, etc.)



## Photo of Commons



# Photo of Gym





# An example of a classroom set up



# *Keeping Schools as Safe as Possible - A Community Responsibility*

## **Daily Health Screening for Students and Staff**

- Prior to entering any school buildings, all employees, parents, and students will be required to **complete a mandatory health screening assessment at home**, including a temperature check, prior to departing for school. This will be completed using a web based application that can be done on a computer or smartphone at <https://entry.neric.org/dobbsferryschools>.
- Employees and parents will be required to certify “No” to all of the following in order to be permitted access to school buildings:

- If they have had **any** of the following COVID-19 symptoms in the past 10 days **or** at a level of severity or frequency that is more than typical for the individual:
  - Fever or chills (100°F or greater)
  - 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
- If they have had a positive COVID-19 test in the past 10 days
- If they had close contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in the past 14 days.
- If they have 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
- If an individual presents with a temperature of 100.0°F or greater, 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.

# Screening

- Kiosk temperature scanners at entrances for building visitors.
- Hand-held temperature scanners in multiple places in the buildings.
- Buildings will receive a printout each morning of which students have completed the health screening attestation to match against class lists. Students who do not have a completed health screening will not be permitted to enter the building.
- Random temperature checks will take place daily as students and staff enter the buildings.
- Visitors will be temperature scanned and required to complete the health screening on ipads at the entrances. They will also be required to sanitize their hands.
- Visitors will be very limited.

# MASKS, MASKS, MASKS

Mask wearing is an essential part of our community responsibility and are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

A physician's note would be required for any student unable to wear a mask for medical reasons. This will also be reviewed by the District Medical Director.

Surgical masks and cotton masks are shown to work well. Questions have arisen related to valved masks, knitted fabric masks, bandanas, and gaiter style masks related to a possible reduced effectiveness. The DOH has not issued any updated guidance in this regard so we will continue to monitor this. The goal is to have 100% compliance for students and staff wearing face coverings.

Students will be given two cotton masks at the start of the school year which are washable. Surgical masks will be available throughout the buildings for students and staff as needed.

## *Face Shields and Physical Barriers*

All teachers will be issued a face shield and masks - TY PTSA and DFSF for clear masks being purchased for all teachers!

Portable Physical Barriers will be available in most classrooms and spaces for use as needed for part of instruction and/or related services.



# Contact Tracing

## District COVID Coordinator/Contact Tracing

- Andrew Klaich

## Building Contact Tracing

- Ray Cavallo
- Anne Pecunia
- Candace Reim

# Contact Tracing for Students and Staff

- Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) has primary responsibility for contact tracing. Joint collaboration with schools in providing student and staff lists, schedules and information to identify exposed individuals and arrange for testing.
- It is critical that schools, parents and staff cooperate fully with contact tracers.
- Contact tracers will not release name of positive individual to their contacts.

# Have patience with guidelines and research in the news

The NYS Department of Health (DOH) creates guidelines for health regulations in schools

- Utilize multiple studies with adequate research methods to inform guidelines
- One study does not necessarily drive guidelines
- NYS DOH needs time to review studies to develop guidelines

# What happens if there is someone in my child's class with COVID 19?

- Westchester County Department of Health contacts family of exposed person
- School assists Dept of Health with identifying contacts
- Self-quarantine at home for 14 days
- Management of quarantine of siblings to be handled by Westchester County Department of Health

# What if a child/staff becomes sick at school?

The sick person will be

- Moved to an isolation area
  - Assessed by a registered nurse
  - Transported home by a caregiver or to a healthcare facility if needed
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- Areas used by a sick person will be closed off and not used again before cleaning and disinfection.

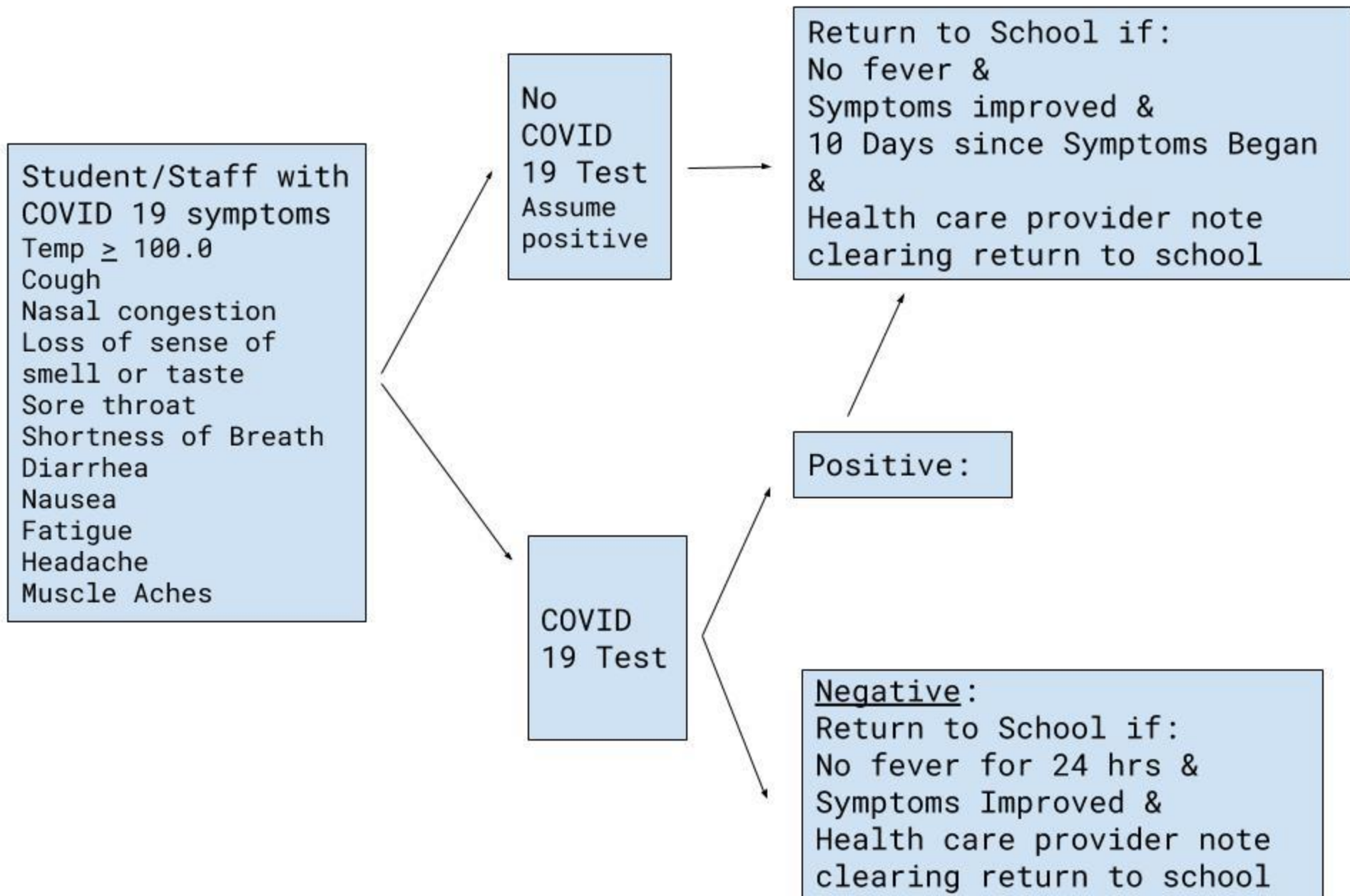
# Child returning to school after illness:

- Depends on COVID 19 testing results and
- Symptoms

## Note on COVID Testing:

- Antigen tests with false negative results (incorrectly negative antigen test when really +COVID 19).
- Negative Antigen test will need to be confirmed with molecular test

# Flow Chart for Symptomatic Student/Staff:



# Child returning to school after illness: Not tested for COVID 19

- No test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but have symptoms
- May return to school if **ALL** the following are met:
  - At least **ten (10)** calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; and
  - Fever-free for at least 24 hours\*; and
  - Other symptoms have improved; and
  - Health care provider note clearing individual to return to school
- If the child has written documentation of an alternate diagnosis from a medical provider that **fully** excludes the possibility of COVID-19, the child may return to school when well (Given the overlap of COVID 19 symptoms and many other illnesses, the acceptable alternate diagnoses are **very few**). This guideline is subject to change.

\*Guidance about length of time without fever from NYS DOH pending



# Child returning to school after illness: **COVID 19 Symptoms & Positive test**

- **May** return to school if **all** the following conditions are met:
  - At least **ten (10)** calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared and
  - Fever-free for at least 24 hours\* (without the aid of fever-reducing medicine) and
  - Other symptoms have improved and
  - Health care provider note clearing individual to return to school & release from isolation per DOH

\*Guidance about length of time without fever from NYS DOH pending

# Child returning to school after illness: **COVID 19 Symptoms & Negative test**

- **May** return to school when **all** the following conditions are met:
  - Documentation of a negative COVID test; and
  - Fever-free for at least 24 hours (without the aid of fever-reducing medicine); and
  - Other symptoms have improved and
  - Health care provider note clearing individual to return to school

# Child returning to school after illness:

## Positive test but No symptoms

May return to school when **all** the following conditions are met:

- At least **ten (10)** calendar days have passed since the positive test; or
- If symptoms develop, at least **(10) days** have passed since symptoms first appeared, fever-free for at least 24 hours\* (without the aid of fever reducing medicine), and symptoms have improved; AND
- Health care provider note clearing individual to return to school & release from isolation per DOH

\*Guidance about length of time without fever from NYS DOH pending

# My child was exposed to someone with COVID

## 19. When can he/she return to school?

NO symptoms & close exposure to person with COVID-19

- May return to school after 14 day quarantine
- If symptoms develop, isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms

What constitutes a close exposure?

- Being within 6 feet of an infected person for 10 minutes
- If a potential exposure is at school, the DOH will determine what exposure necessitates quarantine.
- Any exposure outside of school should be communicated to the school via the daily screening app.
- Remember, travel to a state with a high infection rate is considered an exposure and requires a 14 day quarantine.

# Children may be asymptomatic but still have COVID 19. How do we protect others from these asymptomatic carriers?

**Masks:** All children and staff are required to wear masks at all times.

**Social Distancing:** In addition to wearing a mask, keep at least 6 feet away from others.

**Hand hygiene:** Portable hand washing stations will be available and Springhurst students will be taught explicitly about handwashing. Most classrooms at Springhurst have sinks.

Other measures include ventilation of buildings, taking measures to avoid congregation and enhanced PPE as necessary

# Higher Risk Activities

**Instrumental and Choral Music** - students will engage in learning activities while “in-person” that do not involve singing or playing of wind instruments. These activities will be part of their “at home” assignments as needed.

**Physical Education** - non-aerobic, outside, socially distanced, masks (yoga, walking, stretching) etc.

# Travel Advisory

Please be aware that New York State has issued a travel advisory for anyone traveling into New York from one of the 33 states that have a significant degree of community-spread of COVID-19. If your child will be in any of those 33 states, your child must quarantine for 14 days from the time they return to New York before they will be permitted to attend school.

# Travel Advisory

The first day of school is scheduled for September 8th - if you have traveled to any of these states you must return from your travels **no later than Saturday, August 22** and begin to quarantine if your child is planning to attend school.



# Flu Vaccine

- Recommend getting vaccinated
- Not mandatory in NYS
- Flu vaccine will not protect against COVID 19
- Flu has similar symptoms to COVID 19

# Upcoming Parent Programs

**Special Education - Monday, August 24 at 6 p.m.**

Thank You!