

Westchester School Reopening Work
Group and Department of Health
Update on COVID-19 Guidance and Issues
Facing Our Schools

October 9, 2020

Reopening Guidance Review - updates and current directives

▶ NYSDOH Guidance:

- ▶ 8-26-20 School Reopening Guidelines in Phase 4 of NY Forward webpage: https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Pre-K_to_Grade_12_Schools_MasterGuidance.pdf
- ▶ School Toolkit Flow Charts released 10-1-20 (Supersedes previous guidance): https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/pre-k-gr12_toolkit.pdf
- ▶ School Report Card Dashboard 9-8-20 Training webinar: <https://meetny.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/meetny/recording/759a1646286b41f49f2a06fc24cdde0d>
- ▶ NYSDOH Email box for questions: SchoolQuestionsCOVID@health.ny.gov

COVID Reporting and Inquiry Contact Information

To Report COVID (+) Persons:

▶ Phone:

- ▶ 914-813-5110 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM - M-F, Business days
- ▶ 914-813-5000 at all other times

Clinical Questions:

- ▶ Email box: : DOH-CovidReporting@westchestergov.com
- ▶ **Non-Clinical General Information:** Joseph Glazer
jglazer@westchestergov.com
- ▶ 10-1-20 WCDH School Administrator Letter
<https://health.westchestergov.com/images/stories/PDF/covidtestingguidanceschools10012020.pdf>

COVID Reporting and Contact Tracing Responsibilities

- ▶ **By Executive Order, NYS and WCDOH are primarily responsible for contact tracing, with assistance from school districts and the school community.**
- ▶ **WCDH -**
 - ▶ Verify COVID positive test results
 - ▶ Determine who had significant contact with an infected individual and requires quarantine
 - ▶ Isolation and Quarantine Orders
- ▶ **NYSDOH** supervises the Contact Tracers

COVID Reporting and Contact Tracing Responsibilities -- Schools

- ▶ **Reporting**
- ▶ Student and staff schedules, activities, and listings with contact information (C4)
 - ▶ Also need DOB, Email addresses
- ▶ Communications with relevant school community
- ▶ Exclusion of Isolated and Quarantined persons
- ▶ Proceed with exclusion pending issuance of official Isolation & Quarantine (I/Q) Orders
- ▶ Can request I/Q Release Letters as clearance to return to school

Major Updates

10-1-20 NYSDOH School Tool Kit

- ▶ **Screening Questions and Exclusion Criteria**
 - ▶ One or more COVID symptoms within past **10 days** (vs 14 days) (A1, B1)
- ▶ **Return to School Requirements**
 - ▶ Negative COVID test OR Provider Note with acceptable alternate diagnosis (A2, B2)
- ▶ **School staff not essential for COVID quarantine purposes (B1)**

Major Updates

10-1-20 NYSDOH School Tool Kit

WCDH CLARIFYING WITH NYSDOH - NOT IMPLEMENTED AT THIS TIME

- ▶ Requirement to notify WCDH of any symptomatic student or staff that does not provide a negative COVID test result or acceptable provider note within 48 hours of symptom onset (C4)
- ▶ Those lacking PCR results within 48 hours, refusing HCP testing or evaluation are presumptive positive and infectious subject, to isolation and contact tracing (A2, B2, C3, C4)

Major Updates 10-1-20

NYSDOH School Tool Kit - con't.

- ▶ What is a “chronic condition”?
- ▶ What is reported to WCDOH when there is a refusal or delayed test results?
- ▶ Impact on schools of positive by refusal or delayed test results
- ▶ Standard PCR versus Rapid Testing - Any positive is a positive, Rapid testing guidelines
- ▶ Multiple individuals in residence where one is quarantined - Are others also quarantined?
- ▶ School Closure Criteria
- ▶ COVID Testing Issues
- ▶ Travel Issues

Moderated Questions

▶ **Thank you for joining us!!!!**