

George Latimer  
County Executive

Department of Health

Sherlita Amler, M.D.  
Commissioner

October 1, 2020

Dear School Administrator,

I am writing to clarify current guidance surrounding repeat COVID-19 testing and the criteria for students, faculty and staff who test positive to be released from isolation.

Receiving a negative test result after previously testing positive, even if two tests are performed on the same day, does not allow someone to be released from isolation. An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation until clearance criteria set by the New York State Department of Health has been met.

**The isolation clearance criteria for someone who has experienced symptoms is:**

- It's been at least 10 days since the individual first started experiencing symptoms; AND
- The individual has not had a fever in at least 3 days, without taking fever-reducing medication (such as Tylenol); AND
- Any shortness of breath/coughing/difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell has improved.

If the person meets ALL THREE criteria, isolation can end.

**The isolation clearance criteria for someone who has not experienced symptoms is:**

- It's been at least 10 days since the individual had his/her first positive COVID-19 test; AND
- The individual has not had any subsequent illness.

If the person meets BOTH of these criteria, isolation can end.

While retesting after an initial positive nasal swab test is not needed or recommended, any individual with a negative result from a Rapid COVID-19 Antigen test or symptomatic persons or persons exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 with a negative rapid COVID-19 PCR test must have the negative result confirmed by a conventional COVID-19 RT-PCR test.

In addition, individuals who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of the type of COVID-19 test that was administered, will need to work with the Health Department to identify individuals that they were in contact with. Those contacts will then be required to quarantine for 14 days.

I ask that you share this important information with your school community and direct them to the Health Department's website [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health) for the most current information about COVID-19. For your information, I am also attaching a Public Health Update that was recently distributed to the medical community that I believe you will find useful as well.

Sincerely,



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