

Germantown Central School District

COVID-19 TESTING

Per the New York State Department of Education's guidance to schools for reopening, [Recovering, Rebuilding, and Renewing: The Spirit of New York's Schools](#), *"it is strongly recommended that schools comply with CDC guidance and not conduct COVID-19 testing or require testing or antibody testing of students or staff members. The decision of whether a test needs to be conducted should be determined by a healthcare provider or the local department of health. [CDC Interim Considerations for K-12 School Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing](#)* Schools should identify who in the community is responsible for referring, sourcing, and administering testing (e.g., local health department testing site, physician offices, hospital system) particularly in the event that large-scale testing at the school is needed. Schools wanting to perform COVID-19 testing must apply and be approved as a limited service laboratory (LSL). Please refer to the [instructions and application materials](#), and if applicable, the worksheet for [multiple locations](#)." Therefore, the school district will not be testing individuals. A list of regionally available testing locations is available on the school district website at www.germantowncsd.org for individuals that may want to be tested on their own. School district health care professionals will refer symptomatic individuals to their primary care provider (PCP) for testing.

In the event an individual screens confirmed for COVID-19 symptoms while at school, meaning that they have a fever, or appear symptomatic while at school with any of the [COVID-19 symptoms identified by the CDC](#), they will be placed in an isolation area. For students, parents/guardians will be called to pick the student up from school immediately. Staff members will be asked to leave immediately. Individuals will be referred to their primary care provider (PCP) for evaluation. If the primary care provider (PCP) determines that the symptoms *are not* COVID-19 related, a note from the primary care provider (PCP) stating such diagnosis must be provided in order to return to school or work. If the primary care provider (PCP) determines that the symptoms *are* COVID-19 related, testing must occur.

It is imperative that individuals seek medical evaluation from their primary care provider (PCP) to determine whether or not these symptoms are related to a known or diagnosed condition other than COVID-19 (i.e. ear infection, allergies, etc.).

At the minimum, [New York State Department of Health Guidelines](#) requires *"documentation from a health care provider following evaluation, negative COVID 19 diagnostic test result and symptom resolution, or if COVID 19 positive, release from isolation."* If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, isolation protocols will be required and release from isolation will be determined by the local health department of residency.

Any symptomatic student or staff awaiting testing results should self-quarantine and will not be allowed to return to school until released by a *negative* COVID-19 test result. If an individual is confirmed as positive for COVID-19, isolation protocols will be required for 10 days per CDC guidelines and symptom free for 72 hours, and release from isolation will be determined solely by local health department of residency. A release letter provided the local health department of residency will be required for the return to school.

If a confirmed test result occurs, the county of residency will be notified by the laboratory performing the test. Individuals will be also be notified by either the initial testing facility or their local health department for negative results. The parents of any student who has tested positive must notify the school district as soon as possible. The district COVID-19 School Resource Person for the school will coordinate with the local health department of residency for contact tracing purposes.

In the event a student is under mandatory quarantine by the local health department, the school district will provide remote learning options for the student for the length of their quarantine.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

School closure decisions will occur in consultation with the local health department. This may involve the closure of a classroom or entire facility depending on the quantity of suspected and/or confirmed cases. There may be no need to close to a school building if the local health department determines that the identified close contacts are excluded from school and the facility may continue normal operations. Full closure of a school facility may be necessary in some situations and will be implemented on a case-by-case basis.

COVID-19 TESTING SITES

<p><u>New York State Testing Site</u> State University New York at Albany 1400 Colonial Quad Albany NY 12208 Must make an appointment by Calling: 1-888-364-3065 or Completing an online form: www.covid19screening.health.ny.gov</p>	<p><u>Greene County Public Health</u> 411 Main Street Catskill, NY 12414 518-719-3600 By appointment only</p>
<p><u>CareMount Medical Urgent Care</u> 6734 Route 9 Rhinebeck NY 12572 845-231-5600</p>	<p><u>Kingston Mid-Town Mobile Site</u> 27 Grand Street Kingston, NY 12401 845-303-2730 By appointment only</p>
<p><u>Columbia County Department of Health</u> 325 Columbia Street Hudson NY 12534 518-828-3358 www.columbiacountynyhealth.com</p>	<p><u>Priority 1 Urgent Care</u> 2080 Western Ave Guilderland NY 12084 518-867-8040</p>
<p><u>Columbia Memorial Hospital Rapid Care</u> 2827 Route 9 Valatie, NY 12184 518-758-4300 need referral from County Department of Health</p>	<p><u>Rite Aid - Colonie</u> 1863 Central Avenue Colonie NY 12205 518-267-3496 By appointment only</p>
<p><u>Community Care Physicians</u> 713 Troy Schenectady Road Latham NY 12110 518-863-3600 By appointment only</p>	<p><u>WellNow Urgent Care</u> 446 Fairview Avenue Hudson NY 12534 518-267-3496</p>
<p><u>Emergency One Kingston</u> 40 Hurley Avenue Kingston, NY 12401 845-338-5600</p>	<p><u>Whitney Young</u> 920 Lark Drive Albany NY 12208 518-465-4771 By appointment only</p>



Columbia County Department of Health School Nurse Guidance regarding COVID-19

1. Evaluate student's chief complaint, signs and symptoms, and compare to the list of known signs and symptoms of SARS CoV-2 for children.
2. Obtain whether child has had close contact with a known case of SARS CoV-2, or if they have had recent travel history out of a 50 mile radius from home, and was that travel to a known "hot spot" area.
3. If a child presents with ANY symptoms while at home the child should remain at home and NOT go to school. If while in school a child presents with ANY of the known SARS CoV-2 signs and symptoms, or is suspect of being exposed to someone with SARS CoV-2, or has a known travel history to an "at risk" location, the child should be isolated to a designated room in the nurse's office. Preparations should be made for the child to be sent home for voluntary quarantine if there is a travel history and they are asymptomatic. If they are asymptomatic and suspect of being exposed to someone with SARS CoV-2 they will be sent home for mandatory quarantine. If the child presents with signs and symptoms they will be sent home for mandatory isolation.
4. If any of the above incidences should occur, the nurse will notify the Columbia County Department of Health (CCDOH) and provide the child's parent or guardian's contact number so a case investigation can begin and close contacts to the child identified. School officials will aid CCDOH in identifying any teachers or students in which the child has had close contact (within 6ft for 10 minutes or more) while at school, or during transport to the school. (see item #8 below and Tables 1 and 2)
5. Parents should contact the child's PMD to discuss the case, and if the MD agrees it is a suspect case of SARS CoV-2, the MD can schedule a diagnostic PCR test for the child. If the child's PMD is not available, parents can contact any urgent care center or hospital emergency room.
6. The child can return to school only after 10 days of isolation (if symptomatic), has been three days (72hrs) without a fever, and their symptoms have improved. If the child is asymptomatic but suspect of being in close contact to a positive case, or traveled to a "hot spot" location, that child will be out of school for 14 days of quarantine before being allowed to return to school. If they should present with symptoms during that time, then the isolation protocol takes effect. (See Tables 1 and 2)
7. Once the child is sent home, arrangements for remote teaching will begin immediately.
8. Internal contact tracing will begin to determine what bus (if applicable) the child was on, what class/classes the child attended that day, and what other children did the child have close contact with on the bus or in class.

9. If a teacher calls in with symptoms of SARS CoV-2 and or states they were in close contact with a confirmed case of the virus, the school administration will contact the Columbia County Department of Health and give them the teacher's contact information so the health department can conduct a case investigation and begin contact tracing. Any person who has been identified as a close contact of the teacher will be notified to quarantine and will be monitored for the development of symptoms. The teacher will seek to be tested and remain in isolation until the test results come in and their isolation period is determined by CCDOH.
10. The school district should have a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) in place that addresses replacing teachers who become a suspect case or may have had close contact with a suspect student and therefore will have to mandatorily isolate or quarantine at home. This plan should include a threshold marker of teacher absenteeism identifying when the district may have to consider temporary school closure until adequate staffing can be resumed.
11. The school district should send a letter to parents and guardians prior to the start of the school year that instructs them to treat children who have allergies with medication prior to sending them to school for the day, in order to avoid allergy symptoms being mistaken for symptoms of COVID-19.
12. Parents should be forewarned by the school district that children with any signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be evaluated by the school nurse, who will determine the next course of action based on that evaluation. If the child fits criteria per the New York State Guidelines, the child will be immediately sent home to be evaluated by the child's healthcare provider. The provider shall determine if testing for COVID-19 is recommended and whether the child may or may not return to school. The school nurse may consult with the child's healthcare provider upon the child's return to school if questions should arise regarding the return to school note provided.
13. Parents/guardians should be advised that they must have an emergency plan in place in the event that their child is sent home because of illness or due to exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual or individuals while in school. The plan should anticipate and prepare for up to 14 days of required quarantine for the child. Parents/guardians should be further notified that any child who has been identified with illness or exposure to COVID-19 may be required to leave the school immediately. Arrangements for transport of said child should be appropriate and should limit undue exposure risk to others (e.g. the child should not be transported home by bus or with medically fragile individuals).
14. The Columbia County Department of Health should be used as a resource only after the school has referred to the guidelines set forth by New York State, the individual schools' policies and procedures and COVID-19 Response Tables 1 and 2, attached.

Table 1. Steps to Take in Response to Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Cases and Close Contacts

Scenario	Immediate Actions	Communication
<p><u>Scenario 1:</u> A student or staff member either exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has a temperature of 100.00 or above.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student/staff sent home • School administration notified • Student/staff instructed to get tested • Classroom remains open 	<p>No action is needed.</p>
<p><u>Scenario 2:</u> A family member or someone in close contact with a student or staff member (outside the school community) tests positive for COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student/staff sent home • School administration notified • Student/staff instructed to get tested • Student/staff instructed to quarantine, even if they test negative, for a full 14 days after date of last exposure to COVID-19 case • Classroom remains open • If student/staff tests positive during quarantine, see Scenario 3 below 	<p>Communication to Student/Staff Member who is a Close Contact of a COVID-19 Case</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Communication to Cohort Members (in Cohort Settings)</p>
<p><u>Scenario 3:</u> A student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student/staff sent home if not already quarantined • School administration notified • Public Health Department notified • Student/staff instructed to isolate for at least 10 days after symptom onset AND at least 3 days after resolution of fever AND improvement in symptoms (If never symptomatic, isolate for 10 days after date of positive test.) • School-based close contacts identified and instructed to test & quarantine for 14 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In stable elementary classroom cohorts: entire cohort. ○ In other settings: use seating chart, consult with teacher/staff • In cohort settings, classroom closes. 	<p><u>For Cohort Settings</u> Communication to the Student/Staff Member Who is a COVID-19 Case</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Communication to Cohort Members</p> <p><u>For Non-Cohort Settings</u> Communication to the Student/Staff Member Who is a COVID-19 Case</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Communication to Close Contacts</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Communication to All Other Community Members</p>

Table 2. Steps to Take in Response to Negative Test Result

Scenario	Immediate Actions	Communication
A student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 after Scenario 1 (symptomatic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student/staff may return to school 72 hours after resolution of fever and improvement of other symptoms 	Student family/staff to bring evidence of negative COVID-19 test or medical note if testing not performed
A student or staff member tests negative after Scenario 2 (close contact)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student/staff must remain in quarantine for a full 14 days after date of last exposure to COVID-19 case • If a close contact continues to be exposed to a case during their isolation (e.g. household member), quarantine ends 14 days after the case's isolation period ends. 	No action is needed
A student or staff member tests negative after routine surveillance testing (no symptoms and no close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can return to school/work immediately 	No action is needed