



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PAUL M. WENDEL, JR.
County Executive

CHRISTINE SCHUYLER
Director of Health & Human Services
(Commissioner of Social Services/Public Health Director)

Date Issued: January 24, 2022

Effective Date: January 26, 2022

MEMORANDUM

This memorandum is issued to schools in light of the Updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions for Schools documents released by the New York State Department of Health on January 14, 2022. These documents clarify that schools are not required to conduct contact tracing, but indicate that they may continue to work with local health departments to ensure the safety of staff, students and the community.

FAQ Document, Page 1:

Schools may work with their local health department to ensure that members of the school community, including students, staff, and teachers, who test positive for, develop symptoms of or are exposed to COVID-19 have access to the information they need to take appropriate steps to protect themselves and others. This may include isolating or quarantining, notifying close contacts, staying home when ill, monitoring symptoms, and wearing a well-fitting mask. Isolation and quarantine attestation forms, and related information are available at state and local health department websites.

When known close contact with someone who tested positive for or has symptoms of COVID-19 occurs on the school campus, for example, in a classroom, schools should at least notify parents and guardians of affected students. Exposed individuals should be referred to information provided by the state or local health department and should follow the quarantine guidance as noted below.

Given the surge of COVID-19 cases that Chautauqua County is currently experiencing, the Chautauqua County Health Department will continue to provide support to Chautauqua County schools for COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies. School Specialists are available to assist with identifying affected students when it has been determined that students who have tested positive for COVID-19 were present on the school campus during their infectious period.

The Chautauqua County Health Department explicitly authorizes schools to exclude an asymptomatic student from the classroom, extracurricular activities and transportation services, when determined as a close contact of a positive case.

This health department recommends that schools:

- Ensure consistent and proper masking during all appropriate school activities, including transportation
- Exclude positive cases from school and extracurricular activities as outlined in the I/Q guidance
- Notify staff and parents/guardians of students who have come into close contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case. Students/staff who are close contacts should be excluded from school and school activities unless fully vaccinated until day 5 after exposure, but may participate in the Test to Stay Program if they are eligible (guidance issued by our department on January 7, 2022)
- Students participating in Test to Stay may choose to also "test to play" for sports and extracurricular activities if they test on every day that they are participating in the extracurricular activity
- Staff are eligible for "test to stay" if they are designated as a close contact in a school setting

- Ensure access to and awareness of COVID-19 testing opportunities for symptomatic students and close contacts or “affected students” (testing in the nursing office, provide at-home test kits to families, and/or direct families to school/community testing sites)
- Continue to honor Chautauqua County public health orders for isolation and quarantine submitted to school by staff/students

Schools may also choose to participate in voluntary surveillance COVID 19 testing opportunities for staff and students.

Precautionary quarantines for staff in positive test pools will no longer be required for school districts.

The Chautauqua County Health Department will continue to monitor case and transmission data and will reevaluate as cases decline to provide updated guidance to schools on the topics of contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine.

Contact Tracing: (i.e. “close contact”)

- Occurs in areas where students are:
 - Not able to mask
 - Not able to social distance if not masked
 - Examples may include:
 - Cafeteria
 - Athletics
 - Some Instrumental / Choral Groups
 - Certain Special Needs classrooms where students cannot reliably wear masks
 - Pre-Kindergarten