

PROCEDURES FOR ILL STUDENTS, TEACHERS and STAFF

While health screenings and temperature checks are no longer mandated for students, teachers and staff, it is important for teachers, staff, parents and caregivers to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 before coming to school. Please do not come to school if you or your student has any of the following symptoms below.

Students presenting to the health office with any of the symptoms will be isolated and supervised in the health clinic until parent/caregiver contact has been made for pickup.

- Fever or chills
- 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, vomiting
- Diarrhea

These symptoms, while reflective of many other illnesses, unfortunately must be ruled out to be from COVID-19 infection prior to returning to school. According to the NYSDOH Commissioner's determination issue pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.62, all teachers, students and staff with new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 **must** be excluded from school, regardless of vaccination status, and either (a) provide a negative COVID test result, or (b) remain excluded from school for a minimum of 10 calendar days from symptom onset, prior to returning to school.

If student, teacher or staff symptoms are improving AND they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, they may return to school with either a note from the healthcare provider indicating the test was negative OR a copy of the negative test result. ***THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19, OR HAVE TESTED POSITIVE – THOSE INDIVIDUALS MUST FOLLOW DIRECTION FROM THE NIAGARA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

If a student, teacher or staff member has a fever that has an identified source other than COVID-19, such as strep throat, they will need to be 24 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medication, on treatment (antibiotics), and have a note from the primary healthcare provider.

Given the growing prevalence of breakthrough infections among vaccinated populations nationwide, there is no exemption for symptomatic vaccinated people. They must also be tested for symptoms.

If a student, teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, SNEP will report the exposures to the Niagara County Department of Health and follow all recommendations once received. We have a designated contact for our county school district whom we report to.

If a student, teacher or staff member is EXPOSED to COVID-19, they must follow guidance from the Niagara County Health Department for return to school. Unvaccinated individuals who are exposed to a positive case must quarantine for 10 days from time of exposure. They cannot return to school until 10 days have passed, even if they have tested negative. ***THERE IS NO "TEST-OUT" OPTION FOR UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS.**

Fully vaccinated students, teachers and staff do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative. They should also continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

We take part in the daily COVID-19 School Survey, as required by our State Health Commissioner. Our state and county are in the process of setting up testing programs for teachers and students. We are also exploring our own private testing program at this time.