

COVID-19 REPORTING, CONTACT TRACING & RETURN PROTOCOL

REPORTING/COMMUNICATING SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES

School staff will promptly report any illness of students or staff to the school nurse or other designated individual (e.g., administrator). All reports will be made in compliance with FERPA and Education Law §2-d.

The District will follow local and state guidelines for reporting confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. The District designee will notify the local health department(s) of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result for an individual who was present within school facilities, including students, faculty and staff, and visitors.

With respect to positive cases or metric-based warning signs, the Superintendent of Schools or his designee will consult with the local health department to determine whether to close a specific area in response, or in the cases of broader infection, an entire school. The latter may occur if, for example, it is determined that more than one individual in a school building at given time is confirmed positive. Should a school or schools be closed in their entirety, the District will maintain continuity of learning and services.

The District will follow local health department guidelines with respect to communicating to the school district community regarding a confirmed positive case in an individual who was present directly in a school building (e.g., student, staff member, visitor). HIPAA laws will be followed in all situations. The identity of the individual(s) involved will remain confidential. School district community members will be informed of the school/area in which the individual was present and the remedial actions taken in response.

Again, the District will adhere to or define metrics in alignment with those established by the state and local departments of health or in consultation with the state and local departments of health should the level of infection locally exceed that for the region as a whole. Should data show that the level of COVID-19 transmission may be increasing in the school/district setting in such a manner, more extensive mitigation or full closure will be considered.

CONTACT TRACING

The Huntington School District will support contact tracing as outlined in the [New York State Contact Tracing Program](#), as well as associated isolation and quarantine efforts. Contact tracing will be conducted by local health department in collaboration with the District.

In an effort to assist health department officials more quickly learn who may have had close contact (defined as being within 6 feet of the infected individual for at least 10 minutes) at school with a confirmed case, schools across the district will:

- keep accurate attendance records for students and staff;
- ensure that student schedules are up to date;
- keep an accurate log of visitors, including date, time and location visited.

Identification will include those in close contact 48 hours before the confirmed positive individual became symptomatic or 48 hours before the confirmed positive individual was tested if asymptomatic. Confidentiality in this regard will be maintained, as required by federal and state law and regulations.

RETURN-TO-SCHOOL/WORK PROTOCOL

Return-to-school protocol and procedures with respect to individuals who have screened positive will be established in consultation with the local health department. It shall include, at minimum, documentation from a health care provider following evaluation, a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result, symptom resolution, or, if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation/quarantine.

Persons seen by a healthcare provider and confirmed COVID-19 negative may return:

- once there is no fever without the use of fever reducing medicines and once they have felt well for 24 hours; or
- if they have been diagnosed with another condition and have written documentation from a healthcare provider that they are clear to return.

Persons diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or symptoms should stay home until:

- it has been at least ten days since the first symptoms; and
- it has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine); and
- it has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

NOTE: The CDC recommends 14 days of quarantine after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness if infected, thus it is possible that a person known to be infected could leave isolation earlier than a person who is quarantined.

The District will follow similar protocol to the above, as prescribed by the state and/or local health departments, for staff seeking return to work after suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 or after the staff member had close or proximate contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19.