

Erie 1 BOCES Instructional Services

Alternative Education | Career and Technical Education | Special Education
COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing Protocol

August 19, 2020

COVID-19 Testing, Contact Tracing, and Return to School/Work Protocol For Students and Staff

Signs/Symptoms of COVID-19 Include the Following:

- a. The following four indicators with no explanation:
 - i. Flushed cheeks;
 - ii. Rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity);
 - iii. Fatigue and/or irritability; **and**
 - iv. Frequent use of the bathroom

- b. Additional Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19 Include the Following:
 - i. Fever (100° F or greater) or chills;
 - ii. Cough;
 - iii. Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and/or rapid breathing (without recent physical activity);
 - iv. Fatigue and/or irritability;
 - v. Muscle or body aches;
 - vi. Headache;
 - vii. New loss of taste or smell;
 - viii. Sore throat;
 - ix. Congestion or runny nose:
 - x. Nausea or vomiting; and/or
 - xi. Diarrhea

Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19 While at Home

Students or staff members exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 while at home SHOULD NOT enter the school building and should follow up with their healthcare provider for COVID-19 testing and notify the school principal.

- Staff or students may return to school if:
 1. Student or staff has a note from a medical provider indicating a COVID-19 test is not necessary, or
 2. Negative COVID-19 test results, or
 3. It has been 10 days from the onset of related symptoms.

Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19 While at School

Any student or staff member exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while in school will be immediately isolated in a supervised, designated isolation room and will be assessed by the school nurse or appointed designee.

- While in the designated isolation room, the school nurse or appointed designee will follow all NYDOH and CDC guidelines regarding PPE (i.e. mask, face shield, gown, gloves).
- The school nurse will notify the building administrator, the COVID Coordinator and the Medical Director of the situation. The building administrator, the COVID Coordinator and the Medical Director will work with the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) for further guidance regarding students, staff and the school building.
- The building principal or administrator will work to limit movement in the building.
- The parent or guardian will be notified as soon as possible by either the school nurse, building administrator or an appointed designee.
- The school will work with parents to arrange for student pick-up. Parents will be referred to contact their healthcare provider or to seek a COVID-19 test. COVID-19 tests can be scheduled through the Erie County Department of Health Lab by calling (716) 858-2929.
 - Erie 1 BOCES will coordinate with the home school component district (where applicable) and the ECDOH, the individual's healthcare provider, and the parent/guardian to follow-up.
 - The student may not return to school until:
 - Student has a note from a medical provider indicating a COVID-19 test is not necessary, or
 - Negative COVID-19 test results, or
 - It has been 10 days from the onset of related symptoms.
- If a staff member is exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they will be sent home and asked to follow up with their healthcare provider and for possible COVID-19 testing. Staff or students may return to school if:
 1. Staff has a note from a medical provider indicating a COVID-19 test is not necessary, or
 2. Negative COVID-19 test results, or
 3. It has been 10 days from the onset of related symptoms.
- Required CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfection will occur.

Positive COVID-19 Case and Contact Tracing

- For COVID-19 positive individuals, the school district will collaborate with the ECDOH to identify close contacts and assist with case investigation and contact tracing.
- Contact tracing is a function of the local health department. The contact tracing process starts with the individual with a positive lab-confirmed COVID-19 test result. When there is a confirmed case, the ECDOH will start a case investigation with the infected student and their parent or with the infected staff member.
- There may be instances where a student or staff member is infected but was not present in the school setting during a time where they were infectious. In those cases, involvement from the school COVID resource team may not be necessary.
- The ECDOH will contact close contacts of the affected individual. Close contacts generally refer to persons within 6 ft or less for more than 10 minutes.
 - Any close contacts will be quarantined for 14 days from the date of last exposure, advised to monitor for symptoms and recommend getting a diagnostic COVID-19 test five days or more after exposure.

- Close contact may return to school after a 14-day quarantine period.
- COVID-19 positive students or staff members will be isolated for a minimum of 10 days from the start of symptoms and must be 3 days without a fever, unmedicated and have progressive improvement in symptoms before returning.

Protected Health Information

- A COVID-19 diagnosis is protected health information. Erie 1 BOCES will maintain confidentiality and not disclose the identity of the diagnosed individual. ECDOH guidelines will, if necessary, announce the location of schools with a confirmed COVID-19 case if there is a concern about exposure to the public and they are not able to identify close contacts through investigation.

Protocol for Symptomatic or Positive COVID-19 Student or Staff

