

District 13

District Leadership Team (DLT)

School Health Policies

August 5, 2020

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Thresholds for School Opening and Closure

- In order for schools to reopen and stay open, the percentage of positive tests in New York City must be less than 3% using a 7-day rolling average. Schools will need to close if the percentage of positive tests in New York City are equal to or more than 3% using a 7-day rolling average.
- It is important to note that the above threshold is just one trigger for closing schools but may not be the only trigger. For example, a decision to close schools would be made where there were recurrent, uncontrolled outbreaks of COVID-19 in schools, even if the overall case rates across New York City were to remain low.

Pre-Opening Testing for School-Based Staff

- School-based staff are asked to get tested for COVID-19 prior to the start of in-person instruction. Participation in COVID-19 testing for school-based staff is entirely voluntary.
- Any school-based staff member can opt into pre-opening testing.
- Staff are recommended to get a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test at least seven days before school opens.
 - DOHMH is providing free, prioritized PCR testing at any of 34 city-run testing locations at a staff member's convenience.
 - The City will aim for a 24-hour COVID-19 test result turn around at any of its 34 city-run testing locations.
- Any school-based staff member testing positive for COVID-19 during this time is required to quarantine for 14 days and be symptom-free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

Once School is Open

- School-based staff members are encouraged to opt into monthly repeat surveillance COVID-19 testing.
 - The DOE and DOHMH will help establish a rolling pattern of testing for all teachers and staff.
 - Testing may occur at any location, but school-based staff are encouraged to use City-run sites where DOE tests will be prioritized, and they will aim to receive test results in 24 hours.

Building Readiness

- Complete survey of HVAC systems and window operability to identify necessary repairs. DOE and SCA (School Construction Authority) are working to complete any repairs and ensure air circulation before the start of school.
- Upgrading central HVAC system filters from MERV 8 to MERV 13 where appropriate.
- Complete survey of all hand washing sinks and will make necessary repairs prior to school opening. Focus on maximizing the number of sinks available for hand washing.
- Required deep cleanings to be completed on a nightly basis, including with the use of electrostatic sprayers
- Enhanced cleaning in classrooms, bathrooms, and for high touch areas such as doorknobs and shared equipment such as laptops.
- At the start of the school year, DOE will provide all schools with the following:
 - Signage, face coverings, and other forms of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as hand sanitizer, gloves, and thermometers.
 - Hand sanitizing dispensers will be installed throughout co-located spaces and high traffic areas.
 - Wellness barriers to be placed in the general office and at the main school safety desk.

Daily Health Screenings for Students and School-Based Staff

Daily health screenings, including temperature checks, must be completed at home by families and by school-based staff.

The DOE is also committed to purchasing thermometers for at-home use for families who may need them.

School-based staff and students cannot report to school if they have:

- Been knowingly in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19.
- Tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, in the past 14 days.

Traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 day

Random Temperature Screenings

Every morning, prior to entering the school, specific staff will perform random samplings of temperatures for both students and school-based staff using non-touch thermometers. Additional guidance on random temperature screenings is forthcoming.

Isolation Room

In order to accommodate a student who may exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, every building must designate space to be used as an Isolation Room. An Isolation Room is a place where a student with suspected COVID-19 symptoms can be safely isolated in the building until they can be picked up by a guardian.

- The principal will designate a staff member to supervise a student in the Isolation Room.
- The nurse/health professional and any additional staff supervising the Isolation Room must be given the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including, but not limited to N95 respirators, gloves, gowns, and face shields or goggles.
- Immediately after holding a student, the Isolation Room must be closed and a deep cleaning must be performed before it can be used again.

Protocols and Procedures for Symptomatic Students

If a student shows symptoms of COVID-19:

- Student is escorted to the nurse's office or Isolation Room by a designated staff member wearing appropriate PPE.
- The nurse or health professional will evaluate the student for symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, lack of sense of taste or smell, and other symptoms.
 - If no nurse or health professional is available, the student will wait in the supervised Isolation Room for pick up.
- A family member or guardian will be contacted by a staff member and asked to pick up the student.
- Upon pick up, the nurse/health professional and school staff should strongly encourage the family to visit a doctor and get the student tested for COVID-19.

Protocols and Procedures for Symptomatic Students / *Returning to School*

- If the student has had no known contact with a positive case, the student can only return to school when all the following are met:
 - Presents a negative COVID-19 test result AND
 - Presents clearance from a health care provider evaluation AND
 - The student has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
 - Additionally, the student should participate in remote learning if feeling well enough.
- If DOHMH or NYC Test + Trace Corps determine the student is considered a close contact of a positive case, the student can only return to school when all the following are met:
 - The student has completed a 14-day quarantine regardless of symptoms or test results since their last exposure to that case AND
 - Presents a negative COVID-19 test result after the 14-day quarantine AND
 - Presents clearance from a health care provider evaluation AND
 - The student has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
 - Additionally, the student should participate in remote learning if feeling well enough.

Protocols and Procedures for Symptomatic Students/ *Returning to School*

- If the student does not get tested, then the student cannot return to school until:
 - 10 days have passed since the first symptom AND
 - The student has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
 - The DOE will explore the possibility of adjusting the standard for students returning to school who have been unable to seek COVID testing and health care provider evaluation.

Protocols and Procedures for Symptomatic Staff

- School-based staff members showing symptoms at COVID-19 will be directed to leave the building.
- The school should strongly encourage the staff member to visit a doctor and get tested for COVID19.
- If the staff member has had no known contact with a positive case, the staff member can only return to work when all the following are met:
 - Presents a negative COVID-19 test result AND
 - Presents clearance from a health care provider evaluation AND
 - The staff member has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
- If DOHMH or NYC Test + Trace Corps determine the staff member is considered a close contact of a positive case, the staff member can only return to work when all the following have been met:
 - The staff member has completed a 14-day quarantine regardless of symptoms or test results since their last exposure to that case AND
 - Presents a negative COVID-19 test result after the 14-day quarantine AND
 - Presents clearance from a health care provider evaluation AND
 - The staff member has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
- If the staff member does not get tested, then the staff member cannot return to school until:
 - 10 days have passed since the first symptom AND
 - The staff member has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

COVID-19 Cases in School - *Definitions*

- **Case:** A person (student or staff member) with infection caused by the virus that causes COVID19.
- **Contact:** A person (student or staff member) who has close contact (exposure) to a case.
- **Infectious Period:** The period of contagiousness when COVID-19 can be transmitted to another person.
 - For COVID-19 the infectious period is two days before symptom onset until ten days after illness onset, as long as the case has been at least three days fever-free without the use of medication.
 - For people with no symptoms (asymptomatic), the period is two days before through ten days after specimen collection.
- **Incubation Period:** The period after exposure during which a person is at risk for becoming sick.
 - For COVID-19 the incubation period is two to 12 days.
- **Exposure:** Defined as close contact less than six feet for more than ten minutes with a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 during the case's infectious period, regardless of the use of a face covering or barrier.
 - In the school setting, people who use a classroom at a different time from a case are not considered exposed.

Unconfirmed Case in a School

- Any student or staff member who self-reports an unconfirmed positive case of COVID-19 or is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms will be immediately removed from the classroom or school building, told to stay home, and encouraged to get tested.
- The classroom and school building will remain open at this time.
- Contact tracing will only occur **IF** there is a laboratory confirmed case or if the person is a close contact of a presumed positive.
- *If a positive case is confirmed, the school must follow the protocols listed on the next two slides.*
- If a negative test result is received, the individual may return to school after being symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication AND presents clearance from a health care provider evaluation.

Confirmed Case in a School

- DOHMH will notify the principal and Central DOE of confirmed case.
 - Principal notifies Building Response Team, superintendent, and informs affected teacher(s).
- All students and teacher(s) in class(es) with a confirmed case are assumed close contacts and are instructed to quarantine for 14 days since their last exposure to that case.
 - In schools where students travel between classes, the school must require quarantine for individuals in all classes attended by the confirmed case.
- Learning continues remotely for students who are in quarantine.
 - A negative COVID-19 test result for a student does not reduce the 14-day quarantine period.
- NYC Test + Trace Corps will interview the case and school administration to establish if there were any other additional close contacts.
- NYC Test + Trace Corps will interview staff members to verify levels of contact with the confirmed case.
 - If a staff member is deemed NOT a close contact, then the staff member can opt to return to school.
 - If a staff member is considered a close contact, then the staff member is required to complete the 14-day quarantine.
- The school must communicate to all families and students at school when a case is confirmed by DOHMH (letters are forthcoming):
 - Families of students who are confirmed close contacts of the positive case must receive a letter stating that their child has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual; this letter gives clear direction to quarantine for 14 days;
 - Families of students who are not considered close contacts must receive a letter stating that there was a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the school but that their child is not considered a close contact therefore there is no need to quarantine.

NYC Test + Trace Corps and DOHMH Investigation Conclusions:

Conclusion of Investigation	During Investigation (for at 24 hours)	After Investigation
One confirmed case	Close classroom, transition to remote learning	Classroom remains closed for 14 days; Students and staff in close contact with positive case quarantine for 14 days
At least two cases linked together in school, same classroom	Close classroom, transition to remote learning	Classroom remains closed for 14 days; Students and staff in close contact with positive case quarantine for 14 days
At least two cases linked together in school, different classrooms	Close school building, transition to remote learning	Classrooms of each case remain closed and quarantined for 14 days Additional school members are quarantined based on where the exposure was in the school (e.g., the locker room)
At least two cases linked together by circumstances outside of school (e.g., acquired infection by different setting and source)	Close school building, transition to remote learning	School opens after investigation; Classrooms remain closed for 14 days
At least two cases, not linked but exposure confirmed for each outside of school setting	Close school building, transition to remote learning	School opens after investigation; Classrooms remain closed for 14 days
Link unable to be determined	Close school building, transition to remote learning	Close school for 14 days



Department of
Education

Chancellor Richard A. Carranza

D13: A District Reimagined for All



Questions

Raise your virtual hand

OR

Put questions in the chat