

COVID -19 Testing Protocols in Schools

<u>Surveillance Testing</u>	<u>Exposure Testing</u>	<u>Point of Care Testing</u> Symptomatic - No known exposure, regardless of vaccination status	<u>Point of Care Testing</u> Symptomatic - Known exposure
Conducted by Questar Testing Nurses	Conducted by Questar Testing Nurses	Conducted by School Building Nurses	Conducted by School Building Nurses
<p>Per the testing requirement for teachers and staff, individuals who do not show proof of vaccination will be required to provide a negative test result on a weekly basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This can be accomplished through weekly testing provided by Questar at selected locations utilizing a rapid antigen test. Staff choosing not to participate will need to provide their own lab certified test result to their supervisor. <p>For a positive result for an asymptomatic individual during surveillance testing, a verification test may be conducted using the rapid molecular test as long the following are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reported symptoms. No known exposure to a COVID case. School is not experiencing an outbreak. 	<p>Individuals who are asymptomatic following a known exposure to someone with COVID will be allowed to test during the surveillance testing schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CDC recommends fully vaccinated individuals who have come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 should be tested 5–7 days after their last exposure. Testing will not be made available prior to day 5. If the district has individuals requesting exposure testing, please be sure they meet the criteria before notifying the Questar Testing Coordinator in advance of the testing day. <p><u>Known Exposure definition:</u> Identified by the local health department or school as a close contact to a lab confirmed positive case.</p>	<p>Individuals presenting COVID symptoms at school with <u>no known exposure</u> (case in the home, close contact to a positive case) can be tested using a rapid antigen test or the IDNow rapid molecular test (NAAT).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to a negative antigen test, symptomatic individuals must be well enough to participate in school, not have rhinorrhea (runny nose) or cough severe enough to make mask wear difficult or unhygienic, be fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication and meet other school illness policy requirements to remain in school for a non-COVID illness. If positive result, follow isolation and contact tracing protocols. 	<p>Vaccinated individuals presenting COVID symptoms at school with a <u>known exposure</u> (case in the home or a close contact to a positive case but exempt from quarantine due to vaccination) <u>would be required to quarantine for 10 days from last date of exposure</u>. Individuals can be tested using either a rapid antigen test or the IDNow rapid molecular test (NAAT) to confirm COVID status, however, a negative test does not relieve the individual from quarantine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If positive result, follow isolation and contact tracing protocols.

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Individuals who choose not to participate in testing onsite at the school will be required to be tested on their own and provide appropriate testing results **OR** be excluded from school for a minimum of 10 calendar days from symptom onset, in order to participate in school activities. Return to school would include being fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved.

NYSDOH exceptions to the testing requirement set forth above include:

- Individuals with symptoms that are attributable to pre-existing medical conditions (e.g., migraines, allergies) and are not new or worsening do not require COVID testing; or
- If the HCP provides a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (examples: laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) AND COVID-19 is not suspected, then a note signed by their HCP explaining the alternate diagnosis is required before a student, teacher or staff member is exempted from the testing requirement. Such individuals may participate in school activities according to the usual guidelines for that diagnosis.
- Asymptomatic individuals exposed to COVID-19 who have been previously diagnosed with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and have since recovered, are not required to retest, and quarantine within three (3) months from the recorded date of initial COVID19 infection, or date of first positive diagnostic test if asymptomatic during illness. Schools will have to keep track of when the three months is over, at which time the staff person should resume testing.