



## COUNTY OF ERIE

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### **Guidance for P-12 Schools and Higher Education when a student or staff member has COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test**

#### **What to do when a student or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms**

If the student/staff is at school when symptoms begin, the student/staff should immediately be sent home or to their school residence. The student/staff should be placed in isolation at home or at their school residence in their own room with their own bathroom.

One of the three following criteria must be met before the student/staff can return to school:

1. A note from the student/staff's medical care provider with an alternative diagnosis is provided OR
2. The result of a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test is provided OR
3. There have been at least ten days since the onset of COVID-19 symptoms.

ECDOH offers free diagnostic testing to symptomatic Erie County residents and close contacts of confirmed cases. Other local testing sites are listed at [www.erie.gov/covidtestsites](http://www.erie.gov/covidtestsites).

#### **What to do when a student tests positive for COVID-19**

The student/staff should be placed in isolation in their own room with their own bathroom. All the following criteria must be met before the student/staff can return to school:

*continued*

1. At least ten days after COVID-19 symptom onset or ten days from their first positive test if asymptomatic AND

2. Fever-free for at least 72 consecutive hours without the use of fever-reducing medication

AND

3. Respiratory symptoms are improving.

### **What to do with classmates or staff members in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case**

Protective measures, such as maintaining six feet of physical distance and masking while in the classroom, are practices aimed at reducing the risk of infection.

However, having these practices in place does not mean that a classroom is exempt from quarantine in the event of a positive COVID-19 case. Duration of exposure impacts risk.

Even with protective practices, the following quarantine rules apply:

1. Household contacts and close contacts are placed in quarantine for 10 days. A close contact is defined by NYSDOH as an individual who has been within 6 feet of a positive COVID-19 case for 10 consecutive minutes or more during a time the case was infectious.

2. Contact tracers may make recommendations for quarantine based on other factors, including duration, proximity and presence of symptoms.

3. Persons under quarantine who develop symptoms should be tested for COVID-19. If the test result is positive, the student or staff member will be placed in isolation. If test result is negative, the student or staff member will continue in quarantine for the full 10 days.

Questions regarding this guidance can be direct to the Erie County Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance, School Program at (716) 858-7697 during normal business hours.

Rev. 9/18/2020 to include department letterhead, no changes to text

Rev. 9/21/2020 to clarify that NYSDOH guidance for placing household contacts and close contacts under quarantine applies to cases in the school environment.

Rev. 12/11/2020 to remove 60-minute quarantine criteria.

Rev. 1/15/2021 to note quarantine period of 10 days per NYSDOH guidance.