

COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing Protocol

The Schroon Lake Central School Reopening Document can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uZZuAMc-96cKHFFQJbBknsUDpiNmPacGRiWJw1hq1U/edit>

This document contains information about the written protocols the school will follow to monitor student and faculty health and to support testing of COVID-19. Specifically, page 16 states:

Schroon Lake Central School will follow CDC guidance as it relates to confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school. Students and staff with symptoms of illness must be sent to the health office. Ideally, the school nurse will be available to assess individuals as chronic conditions such as asthma and allergies or chronic gastrointestinal conditions may present the same symptoms as COVID-19 but are neither contagious nor pose a public health threat. If the school nurse is not available, administrators will isolate and dismiss any student or staff member who has a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 that are not explained by a chronic health condition for follow up with a health care provider. Students should be escorted from the isolation area to the parent/guardian. The parent or guardian will be instructed to call their health care provider, or if they do not have a health care provider, to follow up with a local clinic or urgent care center.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school, the Essex County Health Department (518) 873-3500 will immediately notify the school nurse and the Superintendent. The following CSC and DOH guidelines will be followed:

- Closing off areas used by a sick person and not using these areas until after cleaning and disinfection has occurred;
- Opening outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, lockers, and common areas.
- Once the area has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected it can be reopened for use. Individuals without close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 can return to the area and resume school activities immediately after cleaning and disinfection.
- Refer to DOH's "Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure" for information on "close and proximate" contacts.
- If more than seven days have passed since the person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary, but routine cleaning and disinfection should continue.

The following information and flow chart is the process the **Essex County Health Department (ECHD)** expects to follow for all lab confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Local health department and school coordination is an integral part of mitigating Covid-19. Both are committed to coordinating all activities necessary to ensure the health of students, staff, and the community.

The **Essex County Health Department** will conduct case investigation and contact tracing for individuals with a confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19. Contact tracing is part of the case investigation and is a process to identify, monitor, and support individuals who may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19.

- **ECHD** staff will:
 - Issue a health department Order of Isolation to all lab confirmed positive cases and monitor cases per existing guidelines - minimum 10 day isolation from either symptom onset (symptomatic individuals) or first positive test (asymptomatic individuals).
 - Identify potential contacts through interview of the person with COVID-19 (or parent/guardian).
 - The positive person (or parent/guardian for children) is interviewed by **ECHD** staff, who elicit information about the person's illness, determine when they may have become infectious and determine other people who might have been exposed.
 - The potentially exposed individuals (or parents/guardians) are then interviewed and persons who are determined to be close contacts are issued health Orders of Quarantine for 14 days from the date of last exposure.
 - For both cases and close contacts, public health staff will monitor their health status and compliance with disease control measures.
 - All cases and contacts will be linked to testing, treatment, or other resources, as needed and appropriate.
 - Any contact that becomes symptomatic will be referred for testing and if positive will be converted to a case, where the initial process will start over again.
- **School** staff will:
 - Provide all necessary tracking information that will help narrow the scope of the investigation to include only the individuals that meet the pre-defined criteria of a contact.
 - Participate in interviews conducted by **ECHD**.
 - Align return to school policies for COVID-19 cases and contacts with ECHD isolation and quarantine time frames and release documentation.