

# Schroon Lake Central School District

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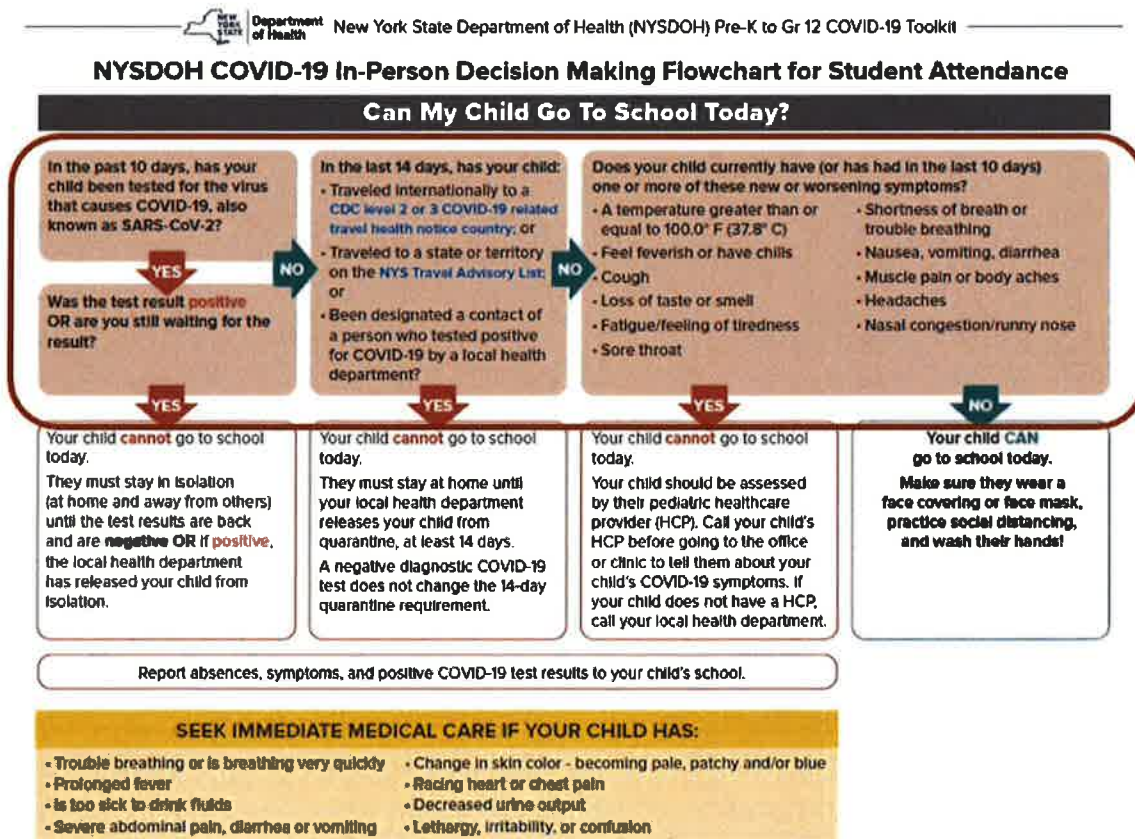
October 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

I thought you would value an update on health related issues at SLCS. With Coronavirus cases on the rise in this country and in the region, we are very thankful that our school has not yet had a confirmed case. We attribute this fact to the hard work and cooperation of faculty, staff, students and parents.

One thing that has been very confusing to us at SLCS, and probably to you as well is the ever changing guidance we get from the DOH and from the state. This letter is an effort to let you know of a few recent changes.

As you know, we count on students, parents, faculty, and staff to carefully monitor their own health so that people don't come to school when they are a risk to spread COVID or other illnesses. The guidelines we gave you at the beginning of the year regarding self-checking have changed a bit. The rules for when your child can come to school are recorded in this graphic:



Please use this flow chart each morning to determine if your child should come to school that day. School employees will use these guidelines as well each morning.

Many questions have arisen about when students can return to school if they are forced to stay home because they have symptoms or because they were previously sent home from school. The county health department recently interpreted new State DOH guidelines on this topic. They have created a template to follow should this question arise. The template is attached to this e-mail. The template can be a bit hard to follow, so I will summarize the key points here:

- Students or school employees who exhibit the symptoms on the previous page must visit their health care provider as soon as possible.
  - If the HCP does not suspect COVID, he/she must provide documentation explaining what diagnosis explains the patient's symptoms and why a test was not recommended. With this documentation, the individual may return to school after the symptoms have gone.
  - If the HCP suspects COVID, he/she will help you get a COVID test as soon as possible.
- Students or school employees who have a COVID test must wait for the results of the test.
  - If negative test results come back, the student or employee may return to school when symptoms are gone.
  - If positive test results come back, the Essex County Health Department will contact families and begin contact tracing. The student and siblings will be excluded from school.
  - If a test result has not been reported within 48 hours of the COVID test, school officials will discuss the situation with parents. Siblings will have to be excluded from school the next day. Parents will be advised to contact their health provider again.
- If a person exhibiting symptoms does not see their health care provider, they will be encouraged to do so so that an alternative diagnosis can be considered and so that a COVID test can be given. The student will remain out of school.
  - After 48 hours, if no alternate diagnosis and no positive COVID test results are available, the student/person will continue to be excluded from school and siblings will be instructed to stay home until they are cleared by a health care provider.
- If your child does not have a doctor or health insurance and needs a COVID test, please call Essex County Public Health at 518-873-3500 for assistance.

We hope this explanation has been helpful. We know that you join us in wanting school to stay safe and open. We really appreciate all of your help. Please call Nurse Kelley or me if you have any questions or are in need of guidance.

Regards,



Stephen Gratto - Superintendent