

East Rochester Union Free School District
Contact Tracing Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is responsible for ensuring families and employees have the most up-to-date information on guidelines and procedures within ER Schools, as well as current information on cases within the district?
 - a. Nursing staff has been in regular contact with families, teachers, custodial staff and school administrators to keep the school running as efficiently as possible throughout the pandemic.
 - b. District personnel are in regular contact with the Department of Health as we work to interpret any updated guidance.

2. What are employees doing to ensure safety protocols are being followed?

Teachers and administrators are continually reminding students of the importance of wearing masks and social distancing, both in school and throughout the community, to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and keep our schools open.

3. Are there additional measures in place, beyond the daily health screening, to monitor students as they enter the school each day?

Teacher Assistants are working diligently at each door every morning to make sure students are healthy, as they are welcomed into the building.

4. What happens if a student shows symptoms at arrival? What happens if a student who should not be at school arrives without clearance?
 - a. If a student shows symptoms upon arrival at school, they are directed to the COVID-19 office or isolation room and the family is contacted.
 - b. The nursing staff in conjunction with attendance personnel are in conversations with staff members within the first hour of school to identify and remove students as needed.

5. How will I know if my student has been in close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19? If a person has been quarantined without a test result, will I be notified? Who should I expect to hear from?
 - a. District nurses, in conjunction with other school personnel and the Monroe County Department of Health, have been contacting all parties that might have been in close contact with a COVID positive person.
 - b. When the district first learns of a new positive case, teachers are contacted to determine any potential close contacts of the individual. Once that is determined, families are immediately contacted.
 - c. Individuals, including staff members, are contacted in the event they have been in close proximity to a COVID positive case.
 - d. Individuals, including staff members, may *not* be contacted if a person they have been in close contact with has tested negative or has been quarantined as a precaution.

6. What does Close Contact mean?

Close contact is defined as exposure for more than 15 continuous minutes **AND** within 6 feet **AND** during the period starting 48 hours before symptoms appeared until the time the infected person is isolated **AND** when one or both people were not wearing masks.

7. What happens if a student or employee begins showing symptoms while on campus?
Our staff has been sending employees and students home and has been instructing them to receive a COVID test whenever they show symptoms of COVID-19.
8. What role does the district play in advising isolation for students, staff and families?
 - a. Dr. Mendoza has authorized the district to act on his behalf in asking people to self-quarantine until the contact tracing process begins for a given case.
 - b. The district is also working with people who are self-quarantining if they are not in regular contact with contact tracers.
9. What are the current quarantine procedures for Monroe County residents?
 - a. The New York State Health Department has now aligned with CDC directives in shortening the COVID-19 quarantine period from 14 days to 10 days past the last day of contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - b. The guidance for isolation and quarantine periods are now both set at 10 days.
 - c. The MCDPH says if you do develop COVID-19 symptoms, you should get tested for the virus immediately and self-isolate.
10. How many tests does a school district need to do to meet testing requirements in different zones?
 - a. COVID-19 testing in yellow-zone schools: At this time, our school district does not have to test additional students or staff in our current yellow zone status.
 - b. COVID-19 testing in orange-zone schools: For schools located in a geographic area designated as an orange zone, a total of 20% of in-person students and staff must be tested for COVID-19 over the one month period following the zone designation. The numbers tested should be proportionately spread over the month with a maximum/minimum of 10% tested biweekly.
 - c. COVID-19 testing in red-zone schools: For schools located in a geographic area designated as a red zone, a total of 30% of in-person students, faculty and staff must be tested for COVID-19 over the one month period following the zone designation. The numbers tested should be proportionately spread across the month with a maximum/minimum of 15% tested biweekly.
 - d. Testing Formula: If the above outlined random sample testing generates nine or more positive cases in any school, or if sample size is more than 300 weekly tests and achieves a positivity rate of 3% (nine or more cases depending on sample size) of one such discrete sample, then the school will be required to close.
11. May a student or staff member in an orange or red zone opt for testing with their primary care provider instead of testing at school?
 - a. Yes, but only if those results are shared with the school so that the district may include students/staff with outside test results in their 20% sample.
 - b. Please note that most primary care providers are only offering invasive nasal PCR tests, not rapid antigen tests, and may decline to do testing for asymptomatic patients to conserve tests for those who are symptomatic.
 - c. Additionally, asymptomatic testing is NOT covered by insurance and so the cost for testing at a primary care or urgent care setting will likely result in out-of-pocket expense for the patient/family.
12. Where can staff/students go for testing outside of school in an orange or red zone and what is the cost?

Version issued 12/29/20 and based upon current guidelines and practices.

- a. MCC will test both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients and is always free. Urgent care and primary care offices provide testing, but may be limited to symptomatic patients only. Please call them to confirm.
 - b. Most insurers only cover testing for symptomatic patients. Private pay PCR testing is currently \$110-130 in the community.
 - c. Additional testing resources can be found at “Find a Test Site Near You”:
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>.
13. Now that there is a vaccine, will students and school staff have access? Who is eligible for the vaccine and where can I get it if I am eligible?
- a. According to the New York Health Department website, the first New Yorkers to receive the vaccine will be high-risk hospital workers (emergency room workers, ICU staff and Pulmonary Department staff), nursing home residents, nursing home staff, followed by all long-term and congregate care residents and staff, EMS workers, other health care workers, coroners and medical examiners. Staff at every hospital will have access to the first vaccine allocation.
 - b. Please stay in contact with your healthcare provider. The school will share any information as it becomes available, but at this time families will be working with someone outside the school for vaccination availability.