



Supplemental Guidance for COVID-19 Contact Tracing

The BRIDGE School will work closely with The Westchester County Department of Health to assist in contact tracing.

Are schools responsible for contact tracing for students, faculty and staff?

While WCDOH has the primary responsibility for contact tracing, effective contact tracing is a joint collaborative effort - WCDOH will need the assistance of schools in providing staff and student lists and schedules and other information to identify exposed individuals, arrange for testing, etc.

How long will contacts to positive COVID-19 cases be required to quarantine?

Individuals who are unvaccinated and exposed to someone with COVID-19 but, have no symptoms will be required to quarantine for 5 days from the day they were last exposed. Please note that a negative test does not release an individual from quarantine.

Staff and students who are fully vaccinated may continue to attend or work at school after exposure so long as they are not exhibiting any signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

What qualifies as an exposure to COVID-19?

Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person displaying symptoms of or testing positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer. Close contacts will be required to quarantine if unvaccinated and/or showing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

Proximate contact is defined as being in the same enclosed environment such as a classroom or office, but greater than 6 feet from a person displaying symptoms of or testing positive for COVID-19. WCDOH will determine if a proximate contact should be under quarantine.

In the event there is a large exposure, what is the plan if the DOH gets overwhelmed with the case load once school starts?

The Westchester County Department of Health has been working in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health on contact tracing, using a joint system for tracking cases and contacts, This system also allows for both the county and state to have increased capacity of contact tracing should it be needed.



If a child tests positive and has a sibling in the school, should the school keep the sibling out of school?

Yes, unless the siblings reside in separate households, the sibling must be placed on quarantine which would mean that the sibling should not attend school during the required period for quarantine.

If a student/staff member is home on quarantine and then develops symptoms, please explain how that impacts attendance to school/work and what it means for the siblings that may have been continuing to go to school.

If a student or staff tests positive, their household members will likely be considered close contacts and will need to quarantine. Students or staff testing positive will require isolation for a minimum of 5 days

What is the timeframe for contract tracing? Will you work with the school immediately? What if we are notified in the evening and siblings may be at school in am.

WCDOH will notify relevant school staff upon learning of a positive test for COVID-19 at the school. WCDH also verifies that individuals reporting a positive COVID test have a positive lab test result in order to proceed with further measures. Labs are required to report to New York State Department of Health any positive test results immediately, and local health departments aim to contact positive individuals within 24 hours of receiving that lab report. Schools should be conducting daily health screenings, including asking whether the child/staff has been in contact with a person who has tested positive.

Designated COVID-19 Safety Coordinators

On-Site COVID-19 Safety Coordinator

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Off-Site COVID-19 Safety Coordinator

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