

# COVID-19 TESTING & CONTACT TRACING

DAILY HEALTH SCREENINGS & TEMPERATURE CHECKS FOR STAFF/VISITORS  
(and periodic use of the questionnaire for students)

Prior to reporting to his/her respective building each day, each staff member, visitor( and periodically for students) will be required to complete a confidential electronic daily health screening form. Four questions will be presented on the form:

1. Since your last day of work, or last visit here, have you had any of these symptoms?
  - Fever (temperature of greater than 100.0° F in the last 14 days)
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Gastrointestinal Tract Symptoms (primarily affecting children only)

*Note: Answer "yes" if the symptoms you have experienced in the last 14 days are of greater intensity or frequency than what you normally experience.*

2. Have you had a positive COVID-19 test within the last 14 days?
3. Have you had close contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 case within 14 days?
4. Have you traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days?

A designated staff member will review incoming reports. If a staff member has reported in the affirmative to any of the four items on the form, he/she must remain home and contact his/her principal or the Personnel office for additional direction.

Additionally, staff members, students, and visitors will enter buildings each day through a temperature scanner that will take a reading on a forehead. A monitor will record simply whether or not individual staff members display a temperature of 100.0o F or higher. Those who display such a temperature will be rechecked.

## **COVID-19 TESTING & REFERRALS**

Individuals (i.e., students or staff) deemed COVID-19 symptomatic, or those answering any of the four questions outlined in the sections above related to daily health screenings, must be tested for COVID-19 as soon as practicable, as such testing is a primary component of return-to school and return-to-work protocol.

Following screening and the identification of symptoms, the school nurse or an administrator will inform the parent or staff member of the testing requirement. Parents/guardians may visit their primary health care providers to pursue such testing. Alternatively, the district may refer those in need of testing to Huntington Hospital (631) 351-2000. Additional COVID-19 testing sites can be found at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>.

## **REPORTING/COMMUNICATING SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES**

School staff will promptly report any illness of students or staff to the school nurse or other designated individual (e.g., administrator). All reports will be made in compliance with FERPA and Education Law §2-d.

The District will follow local and state guidelines for reporting confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. The District designee will notify the local health department(s) of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result for an individual who was present within school facilities, including students, faculty and staff, and visitors.

With respect to positive cases or metric-based warning signs, the Superintendent of Schools or his designee will consult with the local health department to determine whether to close a specific area in response, or in the cases of broader infection, an entire school. The latter may occur if, for example, it is determined that more than one individual in a school building at given time is confirmed positive. Should a school or schools be closed in their entirety, the District will maintain continuity of learning and services.

The District will follow local health department guidelines with respect to communicating to the school district community regarding a confirmed positive case in an individual who was present directly in a school building (e.g., student, staff member, visitor). HIPAA laws will be followed in all situations. The identity of the individual(s) involved will remain confidential. School district community members will be informed of the school/area in which the individual was present and the remedial actions taken in response.

Again, the District will adhere to or define metrics in alignment with those established by the state and local departments of health or in consultation with the state and local departments of health should the level of infection locally exceed that for the region as a whole. Should data show that the level of COVID-19 transmission may be increasing in the school/district setting in such a manner, more extensive mitigation or full closure will be considered.

## **CONTACT TRACING**

The South Huntington School District will support contact tracing as outlined in the New York State Contact Tracing Program, as well as associated isolation and quarantine efforts. Contact tracing will be conducted by local health department in collaboration with the District.

In an effort to assist health department officials more quickly learn who may have had contact at school with a confirmed case, schools across the district will:

- Keep accurate records for students and staff
- Ensure student schedules are up to date
- Maintain accurate log of visitors, including day, time and location visited

Confidentiality in this regard will be maintained, as required by federal and state law and regulations.

## **RETURN-TO-SCHOOL/WORK PROTOCOL**

Return to school protocol and procedures with respect to individuals who have screened positive will be established in consultation with the local health department. It shall include, at minimum, documentation from a health care provider following evaluation or a letter from the Department of Health releasing them from isolation/ quarantine, and symptom resolution.

Persons seen by a healthcare provider and confirmed COVID-19 negative may return once there is no fever without the use of fever reducing medicines and once they have felt well for 24 hours; or if they have been diagnosed with another condition and have written documentation from a healthcare provider that they are clear to return.

Persons diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or symptoms should stay home until:

- It has been at least 10 days since the symptoms
- It has been at least 24 hours since the individual has had a fever (without fever reducing medication) and
- It has been at least 3 days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath

NOTE: The CDC recommends 14 days of quarantine after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness if infected, thus it is possible that a person known to be infected could leave isolation earlier than a person who is quarantined.

The District will follow similar protocol to the above, as prescribed by the state and/or local health departments, for staff seeking return to work after suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 or after the staff member had close or proximate contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19.