

## COVID-19 Testing

- All students and staff who have failed screening and/or exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID-19 with no other explanation for symptomology will immediately be isolated. That person will be sent home for follow-up with their healthcare provider for determination of appropriate treatment and the need to be tested. Resources on COVID-19 testing, including current testing sites available in Nassau County and throughout New York State (available at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>) will be provided.
  - COVID-19 testing can be completed through the person's physician or the Nassau County Department of Health.
- Suspected staff as well as students who have been tested for COVID-19 or who have signs and symptoms of COVID-19, should remain at home and not come to school until results are known. Any close contacts of a pending case's results should also remain at home and isolated until the results of the test are known. A positive result will require additional isolation of the case and close contacts elicited as described above. Quarantine and/or notification will be determined by the health department in conjunction with the school district. Laboratory testing may take days until results are determined. The Nassau County Department of Health has no control over laboratory testing.

## Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing is a public health function that is performed by the Nassau County Department of Health. The North Merrick UFSD will work with, support, and supplement contact tracing efforts by doing the following:
  - Keeping accurate attendance records of students, faculty, and staff.
  - Ensuring student and staff schedules are up to date and that all student contact is recorded.
  - Utilizing the electronic health management system to collect COVID-19 health data including temperature screening information and symptomology.
  - Monitor student use of bathroom facilities throughout the day.
  - Keeping an accurate log of any visitors who come into the building, including date, time, and where in the building they visited.
- If there is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 within the district the North Merrick UFSD will notify the Nassau County DOH and work in collaboration with the Nassau County DOH regarding the parameters, conditions, and scope of closure.

- Contaminated areas will be cleaned and disinfected as per CDC and NYSDOH guidance. This includes:
  - 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.
  - Waiting at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfection.
  - Cleaning and disinfecting all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.
  - Once the area(s) has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected it can be reopened for use.
- In order for students and staff to return to school following positive screening for COVID-19 symptoms, the following will be required as per NYS guidance:
  - A record of an evaluation by a healthcare provider clearing the student or staff member to return to school;
  - A result of a negative COVID-19 test;
  - A record of symptom resolution;
  - In the event of a positive COVID-19 test, a release from isolation (as determined by the DOH).
- Those who were close contact with the confirmed case of COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 14-days.
- The North Merrick UFSD will utilize the screening flow chart below for COVID-19:

<b>Screening Flow Chart for COVID-19</b>			
<b>NO FLAGS</b>	<b>EXPOSURE</b> (No Symptoms)	<b>DIAGNOSIS</b> (No Symptoms)	<b>AT LEAST ONE SYMPTOM</b> (Fever, Difficulty Breathing, Loss of Taste or Smell)
<b>PROCEED TO SCHOOL</b>	<b>CANNOT GO TO SCHOOL</b>	<b>CANNOT GO TO SCHOOL</b>	<b>CANNOT GO TO SCHOOL</b>
	Home for 14 days since exposure.	Home for 10 days since first positive COVID-19 test.	If confirmed positive COVID-19 OR person has not been tested: 10 days since first symptoms, no fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing

			<p>medications) <b>AND</b> symptoms improvement can return to school.</p> <p><b>If negative COVID-19 test:</b> No fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medication) <b>AND</b> symptoms improvement can return to school.</p> <p><b>If confirmed case other than COVID-19:</b> Follow normal school policies to return to school.</p>
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- The Nassau County Department of Health receives all confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Nassau County residents that are electronically transmitted from laboratories, by law. This does not include rapid tests (done at points of cares such as Urgent Cares) for which reliability and validity test are still on-going and are not automatically reported to Nassau County Department of Health, at this time. Confirmed cases in faculty, staff and administrators that live outside of Nassau County will be investigated by the jurisdiction that they reside in. In these cases, close communication will need to occur between the health departments of other jurisdictions, Nassau County and the school districts. Once the health department conducts its investigation, the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator will be called and notified. Depending on the specifics of the case and potential exposures, additional close contacts will be elicited, and quarantine and/or notification may be determined.
- Often, a staff member or student (parent) may know the results of a COVID-19 test before the health department. In this situation, the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator will report the case to the Nassau County Department of Health, who will attempt to confirm the case. If it is confirmed, then additional close contacts may be elicited depending on the specifics of the environment, case and potential exposures. If the case is not able to be confirmed, (often due to laboratory or electronic delays), then the district may make their own determination regarding close contacts and potential exposure and exclusions at that time until further information is known.
- The Nassau County Department of Health will only discuss names of cases with appropriate school personnel consistent with HIPAA. No parents or other students will be informed of names or identifying information. We will never email names of individuals in recognition of the fact that email is not secure.

- Close contacts are required to be quarantined according to NYS Department of Health and are monitored by Nassau County and NYS contact tracing efforts. In some cases, the district may decide to make notifications to other students and staff in the classroom or building who are not close contacts. These individuals should be monitored for signs and symptoms but are not part of the contact tracing effort. According to the CDC, a close contact is defined as:
  - within 6 feet of a positive case for more than 10-15 minutes for 48 hours before case's symptom onset to case's isolation;
  - exposed to or give care to positive case;
  - direct touching;
  - shared food;
  - exposed to sneezing or coughing or talking.
  
- As recommended by the Nassau County Department of Health, the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator and school nurses have been trained on the basics of COVID-19 and contact tracing.