



A Plan for Testing and Tracing Students and Teachers

Elmira City School District COVID-19 Testing and Tracing Protocols In Partnership with Chemung County Health Department

While schools play an important role in identifying symptoms or risks through screening protocols, school staff are **not expected to directly conduct COVID-19 testing**. Testing decisions will be made by the Chemung County Health Department and health care providers.

The Elmira City School District will notify Chemung County Health Department immediately upon learning of a positive COVID-19 test among students, faculty, staff or visitors. **The Elmira City School District will cooperate with contact tracing, isolation and quarantine efforts facilitated by the Chemung County Health Department.**

- For a COVID-19 confirmed case, the Chemung County Health Department takes the lead on isolation/quarantine and release.
- The Chemung County Health Department will respond and perform thorough investigation including contact tracing with cooperation from the school.
- When an individual exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during a screening, that individual must immediately be separated from others and sent home. The individual cannot return to school without, at minimum: documentation from a health care provider, a negative COVID-19 test and symptom resolution. If an individual receives a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, the individual must also be released from isolation before returning.
- The Elmira City School District will follow NYS guidance for faculty or staff members who are seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, or after close contact with a person with COVID-19.
- The Chemung County Health Department will provide recommendations to the school regarding action plans in response to a COVID-19 positive case.
- The Chemung County Health Department will not disclose personal information for those testing positive for COVID-19. All relevant parties will be notified appropriately by the school or through contact tracing by the Local Health Department. The Chemung County Health Department will notify the community of a positive case students by identifying the name of the school building impacted. The Chemung County Health Department will notify the community of a positive faculty/staff by identifying the name of the school district.
- The Chemung County Health Department will notify the superintendent and school nurse of all mandatory quarantines for students, staff and faculty after notifying the individual and/or family.

- When a student presents with symptoms requiring a visit to the school nurse, the Chemung County Health Department recommends immediate isolation and sending the student home as soon as possible.
- The Elmira City School District will continue to rely upon the guidance of medical directors. The Chemung County Health Department will support ECSD in complying with NYS DOH guidance and recommendations.

SCREENING AT HOME, BEFORE SCHOOL BY PARENTS

The Elmira City School District will ensure that parents/guardians will be provided materials to assist in observing for signs of illness in their child that require staying home from school.

We are asking parents to please monitor their child's temperature daily before school. Temperature check is only accurate when there has been no use of fever-reducing medications i.e. Tylenol (Acetaminophen), Motrin, Advil (Ibuprofen)

Parents will be required to complete and submit this questionnaire to the school as instructed. A screening questionnaire will be provided by the school which determines whether the individual has:

- Knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19
- Tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0 F in the past 14 days
- Has 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.

Please make sure you are completing and submitting this questionnaire to the school as instructed.

IN-SCHOOL COVID-19 SCREENING PROTOCOLS

The Elmira City School District has written protocol developed in collaboration with the district or school's director of school health services to instruct staff to observe the signs of illness in students and staff and requires symptomatic person to be sent to the school nurse or other designated personnel.

All staff will be trained to observe students or other members for signs of any type of illness including the symptoms issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as: Flushed cheeks; rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, and/or irritability and frequent use of bathroom.

Students who walk to school, are dropped off, or drive will be directed to designated entrance for a health screening. Appropriate social distancing guidelines and supervision will be in place while students wait for assessment. Trained staff will also abide by appropriate social distancing and PPE guidelines.

Screening will include temperature check and questions. Students passing screening will proceed to classroom/homeroom.

The Elmira City School District has a written protocol for daily temperature screenings of all students and staff, along with a daily screening questionnaire for faculty and staff and periodic use of the questionnaire for students. A screening questionnaire will be provided by the school. Please make sure you are completing and submitting this questionnaire to the school as instructed.

BUS STOP COVID-19 SCREENING PROTOCOLS

Students riding a school bus will be screened at the bus stop by designated staff before boarding. Screening will include temperature check and a COVID-19 questionnaire. If a student with any above symptoms is identified, a parent will be contacted and the student will not be allowed to board the bus. Students arriving to school via bus will enter the school building at the designated entrance so that staff are aware that bus students have been screened. Students will then proceed to their classroom/homeroom.

POSITIVE SCREEN UPON ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

If your child reports to school with any positive symptoms, they will immediately be isolated under supervision until parent/guardian pickup. Parent/Guardian will be advised to notify Health Care Provider.

A School Nurse will escort student outside to parent/guardian for pickup. We ask that you do not enter the building unless otherwise directed.

If a child reports to school with any positive symptoms, they will immediately be isolated under supervision until parent/guardian pickup. Parent/guardian will be advised to notify Health Care Provider. Nurse will escort student outside to parent/guardian for pickup. We ask that you do not enter the building unless otherwise directed.

The Elmira City School District has a written protocol requiring students or staff with a temperature, signs of illness, and/or a positive response to the questionnaire to be sent directly to a dedicated isolation area where students are supervised, prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home.

The Elmira City School District has written protocol to address visitors, guests, contractors and vendors to the school which includes health screening.

The District will minimize visitors to school buildings to only essential workers allowed to enter the site. Those deemed essential will be screened by trained personnel prior to entering and having student or staff contact.

STUDENTS BECOMING ILL IN SCHOOL

Staff will be trained to identify potential COVID-19 symptoms. If your child develops symptoms during the school day, they will immediately be isolated under supervision, assessed by health care personnel, and parent/guardian will be notified for pickup of student.

Schools are not responsible for conducting investigations or testing of staff or students. This responsibility lies with local health officials and healthcare providers. It is important to maintain the

privacy and confidentiality of those seeking health care and those who may be part of any contact investigation by the County Health Department.

The Elmira City School District ensures that ill students and staff be assessed by the school nurse (registered professional nurse, RN) or medical director and that if a school nurse or medical director is not available, ill student and staff will be sent home for follow-up with a healthcare provider.

Following assessment by the school nurse, any student or staff with a temperature of 100 degrees F (37.78C) or higher, signs of illness, and/or positive response to a screening questionnaire will be directed to a dedicated isolation area. Students will be supervised while in the isolation area, prior to being picked up otherwise sent home. Isolation areas in each school building have been identified.

It is imperative that you child's school have updated contact information to reach families in a timely fashion. Please notify school of change of address and/or phone number immediately.

In the event that a parent/guardian cannot be reached for pick-up, designated school staff (2 staff members required) will make a home visit to advise need for pickup. If parent/guardian is not home, home visits will be made to designated emergency contacts.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER A POSITIVE SCREEN

Schools must follow CDC, NYSDOH and Chemung County Health Department guidance for allowing a student and staff member to return to school after being diagnosed with COVID-19 or exhibiting symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19.

Symptoms of COVID-19 but does NOT have COVID-19: If a person has symptoms of possible COVID-19 illness, but is determined NOT to have COVID-19 by a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant), they can return to school when:

- a) There is no fever, without the use of fever reducing medicines, for at least 24 hours;
- b) They have been diagnosed with another condition (not COVID-19) and have a healthcare provider written note stating they are clear to return to school.
- c) They are allowed to return to school based on existing school district illness policies / protocols.

Symptoms of COVID-19 & is diagnosed with COVID-19: If a person has symptoms of COVID-19 and has been diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider either based on a positive test result or just based upon their symptoms, they should remain at home and not return to school until:

- a) It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms, AND;
- b) It has been at least 24 hours since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND
- c) It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.
- d) Repeat COVID-19 testing is NOT required prior to reentering school. However, if a healthcare provider advises a person to be COVID-19 test negative prior to school reentry, they can reenter school

when they have no fever, their respiratory symptoms have improved, and they have received two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

No symptoms of COVID-19 & is diagnosed with COVID-19: If a person has tested positive for COVID-19, but has no symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and not return to school until:

- a) 10 days have passed since test was done (if they continue to have no symptoms of COVID-19).
- b) Repeat COVID-19 testing is NOT required prior to reentering school.
- c) However, if a healthcare provider advises a person to be COVID-19 test negative prior to school reentry, they can reenter school when they have no fever, their respiratory symptoms have improved, and they have received two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

COVID-19 illness & people with weakened immune systems: People with conditions that weaken their immune system (immunocompromised), who acquire COVID-19 illness, might need to stay home longer than 10 days. This would be determined and communicated to the school district by their healthcare providers.