



Preventative Measures at DCS

Mask Policy:

As per NYS mandates: All students, staff, and visitors are required to wear masks that cover the nose and mouth inside the buildings at all times, except when actively eating or drinking. Mask breaks are provided for 5 minutes per period/hour when all people in the room are seated and socially distanced.

Social Distancing:

A distance of 3 feet is maintained in classroom settings.

Staff Vaccination or Weekly Testing:

As per NYS mandates: All employees, including per diem employees and contractors, must either be vaccinated or provide proof of a negative COVID test weekly. DCS is providing pool testing on a weekly basis for all employees that are required to test and any vaccinated employees who wish to be tested. If they prefer, employees may be tested at an outside provider and share the results with Mrs. Vadala or Dr. Brown. If self testing, a PCR test is required.

Limited Access to Campus:

Guests/visitors are permitted by appointment only during school hours. Guests must sign in at the Security Window and are expected to wear a mask while inside the building. Please note: those under a quarantine or isolation order, or awaiting test results, are not permitted on school grounds/at school events. In addition, we ask that anyone that is feeling ill and/or experiencing symptoms of COVID please stay home.

How is the need to quarantine determined?

The district's role is to assist the county in identifying the students/adults who must be considered for quarantine. In determining which student(s) or members of our

staff are considered “close contacts” of the positive person, we are required to follow the guidelines that are provided to us by the department of health. If a student or staff member is determined to be a “close contact” of the positive person they will be quarantined for 10 days. Quarantine begins the day after they were exposed to the positive person. They may return to school on the 11th day. The departments of health, depending upon which county the positive person resides in, set the official start and end dates for quarantine/isolation.

Close contact in a PK-12 classroom/extracurricular setting is any person that:

- Is less than 3 feet from the positive person for 15 or more minutes within a 24 hour period
- Is between 3-6 feet of the positive person without a mask for 15 or more minutes within a 24 hour period
- *Per the CDC, in the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This definition will be applied to our PK-12 student population.*

On a school bus:

- Within 6 feet of the positive person for 15 minutes or longer

If a student/staff member is determined to be a “close contact” a member of the administrative team will contact the parents as soon as possible from the determination. If the need to quarantine is determined during the school day, the student will need to be picked up from school as soon as possible. They will not be permitted to ride the bus home.

If there is a positive case in your child’s class, on the school bus, or at an extracurricular/sporting activity and your child is not considered a close contact according to the CDC’s definition of a close contact or have been vaccinated they will NOT be quarantined, but it is recommended that you monitor your child for COVID-19 symptoms for the next 10 days. Common symptoms include headache, sore throat, congestion, cough, upset stomach and fever. As long as an individual

remains symptom free they may continue to attend school and extracurricular activities.

If your child develops symptoms please keep them home from school and contact Mrs. Vadala at (315) 853-3400 ext. 7112 for guidance regarding testing.

If my child is vaccinated, will he/she need to quarantine?

According to current guidance, *fully* vaccinated individuals do **NOT** have to quarantine, even if determined to be a “close contact,” as long as they remain symptom free. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the full dosage of the vaccine. If a vaccinated person develops symptoms they should stay at home and be tested for COVID. Upon receipt of a negative test result, the vaccinated student/adult may return to school/school events once they are symptom free. If the result is positive, an isolation period will begin per the Department of Health.

Instruction While In Quarantine/Isolation:

Instruction for students in quarantine/isolation has been differentiated by building in order to best meet the developmental needs of our students. For our purposes, a student is considered to be quarantined upon notification from the school if it is linked to a school case, and/or notification from the Department of Health if it is linked to an outside case. A student is considered in isolation based on a positive COVID test result.

Remote instruction is only offered to students under an official quarantine or isolation order.

- **PK-5 Entire Class Quarantine:** Staff will hold daily ELA class and Math class via google meet and post asynchronous assignments via google classroom. Teacher office hours will be offered daily via google meet. Special education, AIS and special area classes will be offered via google meet. Hard copy work will be prepared and made available for pickup for those without internet access. Devices and other class materials needed for remote instruction will be made available for pickup and details communicated via classtag.
- **PK-5 Individual Student/Partial Class Quarantine:** Teachers will prepare prioritized ELA and Math assignments (hard copy and/or via google classroom) for the length of the quarantine or isolation period. A virtual

tutor will be made available for students to access via google meet if assistance is needed with assignments. Parents/guardians and students will receive information via classtag regarding how to access virtual tutoring if/when they are placed in quarantine/isolation. Work will be ready for pickup two days after the school is notified of the quarantine/isolation. Upon returning to school students will be counted as *Remote Present* for every day they turn in completed assignments and *Remote Absent* for days they did not complete assignments.

- **6-12 Students:** Once a student is in quarantine or isolation, he/she will participate in virtual instruction. Students should follow their in-person school schedule for their core classes via Google Meet. If materials need to go home for a student, the family will be notified so arrangements can be made for picking up the items at the security window.

Access to School Meals While in Quarantine and Isolation:

Breakfast and lunch will be available for pick up for any student that is quarantined or in isolation. If you would like to make arrangements for meals, please contact Mrs. Brenda Scutt at 315-852-3400 ext 7146.

When should I have my child tested?

- Whenever they display symptoms of COVID-19. Common symptoms include headache, sore throat, congestion, cough, upset stomach and fever.
- If your child is sent home from school from the nurse's office, Mrs. Vadala will inform you if a negative test result is needed to return to school. Please note: at home tests CANNOT be accepted. A PCR test will be required.
- Testing is available for patients of Student Medical (Family Health Network).
- For additional information on testing check with your primary care provider. The links below also provide information regarding testing locations:

<https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2589/Find-COVID-19-Testing>

<https://www.cortland-co.org/432/Health-Department>

<https://covid19.ongov.net/>

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/community-based-testing-sites/index.html#ny>

<https://www.solvhealth.com/ny/c/cortland-ny-srv-covid-testing>

Attendance

- Students are expected to be in school every day that they are healthy.
- Students that are symptomatic and home awaiting test results will be marked absent*(as they would with any other illness).
- Students placed in quarantine/isolation will be counted as *Remote Present* if they attend offered remote classes via google meets and/or complete assignments. Students placed in quarantine/isolation will be counted as *Remote Absent** if they do not attend offered remote classes/complete assignments.
- While we understand there may be times when a parent/guardian may feel it necessary to be cautious and keep their child(ren) home, students not under an official quarantine/isolation order and are otherwise healthy will be considered absent.

*All students must bring in a written excuse upon return to school. Once that excuse is received, the absence will be considered 'excused'.