

New Guidance Allows Students to Test to Stay in School

In an effort to keep our students in school, Herkimer BOCES and its 10 component school districts worked with Herkimer County Public Health Department to create a plan that eliminates or shortens quarantines due to COVID-19. The plan centers on the latest guidance from the New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

The plan replaces precautionary quarantines with home testing as a way to continue attending school in person. It also shortens quarantines from 10 days to five as measured from the onset of symptoms or the date of a positive COVID test, whichever is earlier—as long as the child wears a well-fitting mask for days six through 10. **For our model, a well-fitting mask will not include a cloth mask and will not include a gator, due to the variations in material.**

Most instances of Test to Stay (TTS) will fall under one of the three scenarios outlined below:

Scenario #1: A student is exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case. A parent or guardian will pick up the child at school. At that time, the parent will receive and three COVID-19 rapid test kits that they will use on the schedule below to test their child for COVID and will affirm receipt to allow us to monitor inventory. The test kits include instructions. Additionally, parents can watch a short instructional video [here](#). As long as the child tests negative for COVID and remains asymptomatic (free of symptoms), the child can continue attending school.

<i>Testing to Stay in School</i>					
Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Student is exposed to COVID	Test		Test		Test

Scenario #2: An exposed student tests positive, but never develops symptoms: The child must quarantine for five days, beginning from the positive test date. **Parent must immediately notify Herkimer County Public Health (call 315-867-1176) of the test result.** The child can return to school on the sixth day but must wear a well-fitting mask for days six through 10.

<i>Student Tests Positive Without Symptoms</i>						
Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Student tests positive						Returns to school

Scenario #3: An exposed student tests positive and develops symptoms: If the child tests positive at any point and develops symptoms, the child must quarantine for five days. Quarantine begins from the date of the positive test or from the onset of symptoms, whichever is earliest. The parent must immediately notify Herkimer County Public Health (call 315-867-1176) of the test result. The child can return to school on the sixth day if symptoms have improved and he or she has no fever and wears a well-fitting mask for days six through 10.

<i>Student Tests Positive and Develops Symptoms</i>						
Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Student tests positive OR Exhibits Symptoms						Returns to school if improved symptoms and no fever