



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Broome County Health Department

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Guidance as of 7/30/2020

Q1: If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19 how does he/she have to isolate at home?

A1: Anyone with a positive COVID-19 test is required to isolate from the general public for a MINIMUM of ten days. The clock starts with day zero being the day symptoms of illness started OR the date of the test if no symptoms are reported. For individuals with symptoms, release from isolation is based on the individual having 3 day fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms are resolving.

Q2: Who can determine when a confirmed COVID-19 case is released from isolation?

A2: Only the Local Health Department can release a confirmed COVID-19 case from isolation as they deem the individual is no longer a health threat to the public.

Q3: If a teacher has 5 classes a day with 20 students each, do all 100 of those students need to then stay home and quarantine for 14 days?

A3: No, only students, school staff and other individuals that are identified as being within 6 feet for 10 or more minutes during the individual's infectious period are determined to be close contacts and are required to quarantine. The infectious period begins 48 hours before symptoms began or the test was given.

Q4: Should all the identified close contacts get tested so they get a negative test and can be off quarantine?

A4: No, only close contacts experiencing symptoms should get tested. Otherwise, close contacts are to quarantine for the full 14-day period for which they are monitoring for symptoms.

Q5: What if someone who lives in the same house as a teacher tests positive? Does that teacher now need to take 14 days from work to quarantine?

A5: As with other contacts to a confirmed case, the Broome County Health Department will identify and issue quarantine orders for contacts. The quarantine orders require that contacts quarantine from the general public for 14 days from their last exposure to a confirmed case. In some situations, individuals on quarantine can still work if they are asymptomatic (essential employees and health care workers.)

Q6: If a staff or student goes home with COVID symptoms what happens to the others who have been potentially exposed while waiting for the test results?

A6: Broome County Health Department would not require any additional staff or students quarantine until we have received a positive test result and case investigation has begun.

Q7: What is expected of the school district for case investigation if a staff or student tests positive?

A7: The Broome County Health Department will reach out to your COVID liaison for a list of close contacts. A close contact is defined as anyone who has been within 6 feet for 10 or more minutes. We would also look for your liaison to be a point of contact for other questions/ information needed for case investigation.