

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The New York State Education Department (NYSED), along with the Governor's office, encouraged every district to develop three (3) plans:

A. **In-Person Model:**

Students will attend school on campus each day school is in session.

B. **Hybrid Models:**

This model allows flexibility in the education of students across the District. Not all students will be in the school building at the same time, allowing for a blend of in-person and remote instruction.

C. **Remote Learning Model:**

Students will remain at home, and teachers will provide remote instruction. To see a more detailed description of the 100% Remote Learning Plan please visit:

<https://www.buffaloschools.org/LearningResources>

Models A and B above require strict adherence to the CDC guidelines. Some of the guidelines include:

- Per NYS Public Health Law 2164, all children entering or attending a public school in New York State, including in person and distance learning, must submit up-to-date immunizations to their schools, within 14 days of the first day of school.
- Mandatory daily temperature checks for all staff and students will be required.
- Masks coverings will be required for all students and staff, at all times, except during times of the day when the student or staff members are eating. The district is exploring other options for those unable to wear masks.
- Bathroom breaks for students will be scheduled and rotated in an effort to prevent congregating.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces daily
- Restrictions on mixing of students, keeping the same groups of students with the same staff members as much as possible
- Canceling of field trips, events, and extracurricular activities
- Spacing desks 6 ft. apart, facing the same direction
- Closing dining halls and serving meals in classrooms
- Students must social distance on the bus as practicable.
- Minimize sharing of objects such as electronic devices
- Serving pre-packaged food instead of buffet-style meals when possible
- Conducting daily health screenings, such as temperature checks

Each building will display and share with parents, age appropriate posters as reminders of proper hand washing, proper donning of face masks, and information on how to stop and protect yourself and others against the spread of COVID-19 (See Appendix G).

NURSES and PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- A school nurse will be in place full time, Monday through Friday.
- The school nurse will receive explicit training in COVID-19 safety and prevention.
- Multiple rooms/areas to accommodate students and/or staff in case of illness and one isolation room for individuals with suspected transmissible infections including COVID-19.
- The facility will be equipped with basic health care supplies including: equipment for measuring vital signs, hand sanitizers, facemasks for patients, tissue paper, communication equipment, health forms, and signage sheets.
- The facility will be equipped with PPE items including: N95 masks, eye protection (face shield or goggles), gloves, gowns, and hand sanitizer.

PROTOCOLS

Protocols implemented are informed by medical personnel (i.e. Site-Based School Nurse and/ or District's Medical Director) of an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (See attached ECDOH Recommended Flow Chart, Appendix M):

- Inform the school nurse and District's Medical Director about the case to initiate protocol, prepare facility, wear full PPE, and contact parents/guardians.
- Use social distancing protocols, escorting the individual(s) to the room or area that is designated by school administration and under the supervision of the staff member designated by the school's principal.
- The school nurse will contact the parent/guardian of the student in the isolation room.
- The school nurse will work in collaboration with school's administration to ensure proper transportation of the individual(s) to the most appropriate location based on disease severity. Those locations may include emergency or outpatient facility, primary care physician's office, or home.
- Student will leave the school with a parent, guardian, or individual approved by parent or guardian to pick-up the student, unless patient is taken emergently to an ER facility and in that case he or she will be accompanied by a school designee.
- BPS guidelines will align with the ECDOH guidelines which require a ten-day time for return to school and/or work, after a positive test result. For a student or staff member who has been exposed to COVID-19, a 14 calendar day quarantine is required. A doctor's note identifying a negative COVID-19 result may be provided by any of the following methods: hand delivery (by students, parents, staff), faxed, emailed, or U.S. postage mailed to the school's principal. For further details, please see Appendices N and O.
- NYSDOH is writing guidance to clarify that for students or staff to return to school after 10 days of isolation, schools should NOT require a repeat negative test. Due to limited

testing availability, forthcoming guidance should direct students to be required to follow “release from isolation guidance” rather than being required to obtain “a negative COVID 19 test” as a requirement to return to school. Erie County Department of Health will give residents under isolation or quarantine a release from isolation/quarantine notice without conducting a repeat test. Therefore, the expectation would be for schools to create guidance that follow this same process.



Erie County
Department of
Health



Public Health
Protect. Promote. Prevent.

Has an employee or student at your business or school tested positive for COVID-19?

Yes

No

Your employee or student will be put under isolation orders by the Erie County Department of Health and advised when they can return to work and school.

Continue safe social distancing and cleaning measures, and follow directives and guidance from New York State and Erie County.

Close contacts of your employee or student will be contacted by the Erie County Department of Health to advise them of the need to quarantine.

For employees deemed essential by a business

For students and employees deemed non-essential

Who is a close contact of someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19?

A close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection).

May continue to work on site if all of the following criteria are met:
(Note: Nursing home employees have different requirements. Contact NYSDOH for criteria)
1. It is not feasible for you to work from home or if not working would adversely impact the operation of your facility.
2. You remain asymptomatic.
3. You undergo temperature and symptom monitoring upon arrival to work and at least every 12 hours while at work and self-monitor twice a day when home.
4. You wear a face covering while working until 14 days after exposure.
5. Employees must not leave their work location during the work day.
6. Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet from co-workers, customers and visitors.

Must remain under quarantine at home for a 14-day period after last known exposure; monitor for symptoms and consider getting a COVID-19 diagnostic test five days or more after last exposure

You are required to maintain quarantine when not at work until 14 days after your last exposure to the confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case. If symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) develop while working, stop work immediately and isolate at home. Consider getting a COVID-19 diagnostic test five days or more after last exposure.

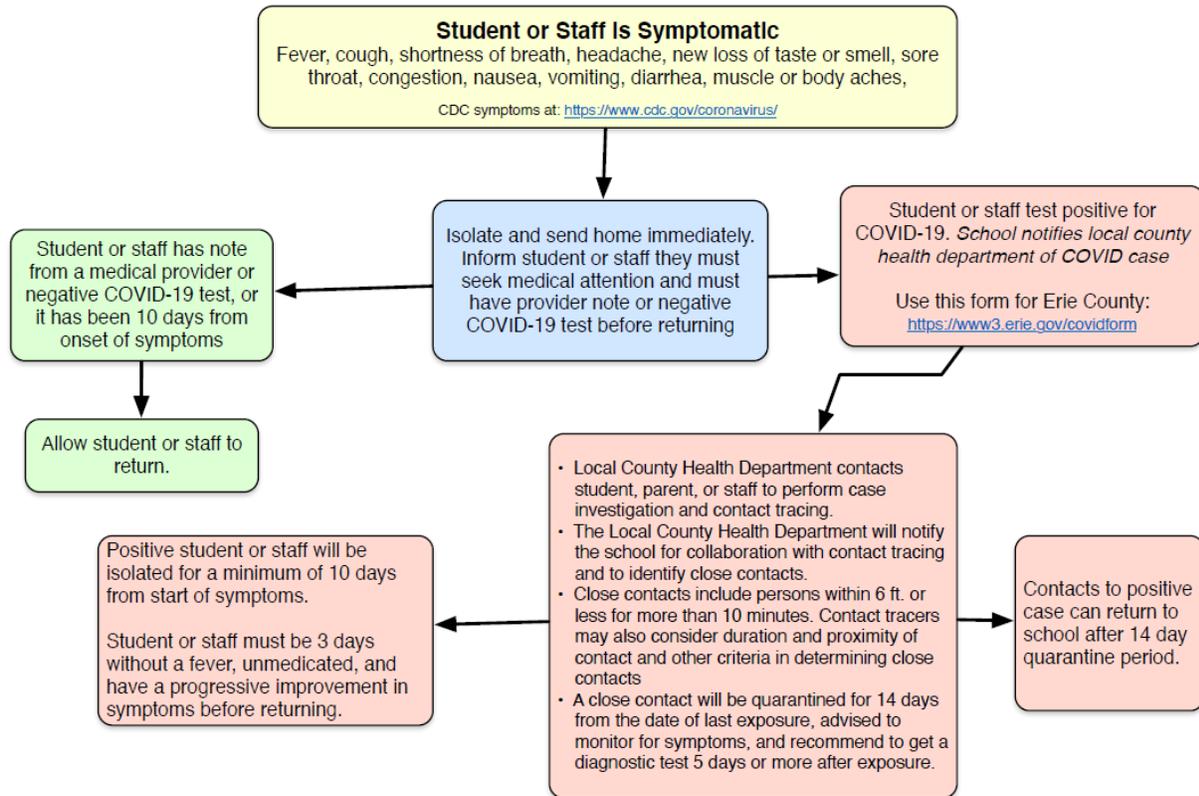
Return to Work or School: Once employees or students have completed their period of isolation or quarantine, they can self-certify that they are released from isolation or quarantine and return to work or school.

ECDOH recommends the CDC and NYSDOH time-based strategy for returning to work or school after a positive COVID-19 test, which would not require a negative test before returning.

A repeat positive COVID-19 diagnostic test more than 10 days after onset of illness or after 1st test does not mean a person can infect others.

This information is subject to change. Revised 08072020
Additional information at www.erie.gov/covid19 or call the Erie County Information Line at (716) 858-2929.

Protocol for Symptomatic or Positive COVID-19 Student or Staff





[Home](#)

Business Report Form for an Employee who tests positive for COVID-19

If a worker tests positive for COVID-19 in New York State, the employer must immediately notify state and local health departments and cooperate with contact tracing efforts, including notification of potential contacts, such as workers or visitors who had close contact with the individual, while maintaining confidentiality required by state and federal law and regulations.

Please complete and submit the following form for each of your employees that test positive for COVID-19. You may be contacted by an Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) employee if more information is needed. Thank you for your assistance.

Business Information

Company Name

Company Address

City

State

ZIP

Your Name

Title

Phone

Email

COVID-19 Positive Case Information

Name

Address

City

State

ZIP

Phone

Superintendent's Health Advisory Council

Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH

Since 2012, Dr. Burstein has served as the Erie County Health Commissioner. A specialist in Adolescent Medicine and Pediatrics, she is the recipient of numerous professional awards and honors, published in a wide range of journals, and the successful awardee of numerous grants in her field. Dr. Burstein earned her MD at the University at Buffalo, graduating magna cum laude. She earned her MPH in Maternal and Child Health at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Burstein currently serves as a Clinical Professor in Pediatrics and a Research Professor in the School of Public Health and Health Professions at the SUNY Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.



Rachel Dominguez, EdM, PhD



Dr. Rachel Dominguez is the parent of a rising 7th grader in the Buffalo Public Schools and a BPS graduate herself. She is Co-Chair of a recognized district parent group, the Buffalo Parent-Teacher Organization (BPTO). She holds an EdM in Education Policy from Harvard University and a PhD in Sociology of Education from the University at Buffalo. Her current research work focuses on equity in STEM education in U.S. schools. Through her work in the BPTO, Dr. Dominguez has played an active role in connecting with district parents throughout the pandemic in order to provide support to our students, parents, caregivers, and other community stakeholders.

Oscar G. Gómez-Duarte, MD., Ph.D.

Dr. Gomez currently serves as the Director of Infectious Diseases at Oishei Children’s Hospital in Buffalo. A pediatric specialist, Dr. Gomez is Board certified in Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases by the American Board of Pediatrics. He earned his M.D. at National University of Colombia School of Medicine, Bogotá, Colombia, and his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore Maryland. In addition to garnering numerous honors, multiple successful grant awards and memberships in professional associations, Dr. Gomez is extensively published in his field. He is also currently on the faculty of the SUNY Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences as an Associate Professor of Pediatrics.



Dennis Zane Kuo, MD, MHS

Dr. Kuo is now serving as the Chief of the Division of Developmental Pediatrics & Rehabilitation for UBMD Pediatrics in Buffalo. He holds numerous board certifications and licenses from across the United States. He earned his M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and his Masters in Health Science at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Kuo has presented extensively across the U.S. in a broad range of topics in Pediatrics. He has also earned numerous awards, recognitions, and elected appointments by his peers including national-level positions. Dr. Kuo currently serves on the faculty of the SUNY Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences as an Associate Professor of Pediatrics.



Willie Underwood III, MD, MSc, MPH

Dr. Underwood is an expert in health services research, health care disparities, and health care policy. A board-certified urologist with nearly 20 years of overall urologic surgery experience, including more than 10 years focused on robotic urologic surgery, he was elected to the American Medical Association Board of Trustees in June 2019. Dr. Underwood has served on several national and regional health care policy committees, including as a board member and past president of the Erie County Medical Society of New York, as a member of the American Medical Association and National Medical Association Joint Committee to End Healthcare Disparities. He earned his M.D. and a Masters of Science in Anatomy and Cellular Biology from the State University of New York at Syracuse and a Masters in Public Health from the University of Michigan, School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dr. Underwood currently serves as a Clinical Associate Professor at the SUNY Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.



