COVID TESTING PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS

Managing Illness

Students and staff with symptoms of illness must be sent to the health office. Ideally a school nurse (Registered Professional Nurse, RN) will be available to assess individuals as chronic conditions such as asthma and allergies or chronic gastrointestinal conditions may present the same symptoms as COVID-19 but are neither contagious nor pose a public health threat.

- If there are several students waiting to see the school nurse, arrangements will be made to have students wait at least 6 feet apart.
- Each school will have two rooms for school health personnel - one room for healthy students who have injuries or need their medications or nursing treatments, and another room for assessing and caring for ill students and staff. Both rooms will have a supervising adult present and will have easy access to a bathroom and sink with hand hygiene supplies.
- School nurses and other school health professionals assessing or providing care to ill students and staff will follow transmission-based precautions which includes the use of appropriate PPE.
- Students suspected of having COVID-19 awaiting transport home by the parent/guardian will be isolated in a room or area separate from others, with a supervising adult present utilizing appropriate PPE. Multiple students suspected of COVID-19 may be in this isolation room if they can be separated by at least 6 feet.
- If a separate room is not available, keep at least a 6-foot distance between ill students and other persons. It is recommended that a facemask (e.g., cloth or surgical mask) be provided to the student if the ill person can tolerate wearing it and does not have difficulty breathing.
- All ill students and staff will be assessed by the school nurse. The school nurse will evaluate the individual to rule out the illness is not caused by a chronic condition. If the school nurse is not available, the ill person will be sent home to be evaluated by a healthcare provider
- There will be additional staff available to assist with increased workload and decrease the chance of cross contamination.
- If a staff or student becomes ill, they will:
  - Be sent home. The ill person will be escorted by staff to the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be instructed to call the student's healthcare provider. If the individual tests positive for COVID-19, the COVID-19 resource person will notify the public health department and be responsible for carrying out their instructions.
  - Those who are suspected of COVID 19 will be separated in an isolation room with a bathroom and a sink easily accessible. The isolation room will be cleaned between students as well as all areas used by that person. Windows to be opened to increase ventilation.
  - If staff are made aware of an ill student, they are to notify nurse or designee.
  - All suspected individuals and outcomes will have confidentiality maintained.
  - All those to be assessed must be kept socially distanced.

Transporting Home:

- Students will be escorted from the isolation area to the parent/guardian.
- The parent or guardian will be instructed to call their health care provider, or if they do not have a health care provider, to follow up with a local clinic or urgent care center.
- Symptomatic students or staff members will follow the CDC's Stay Home When You Are Sick guidance unless otherwise directed by a healthcare provider or the local department of health.
- If the student or staff member has emergency warning signs such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to arouse, bluish lips or face, we will call 911 and notify the operator that the person may have COVID-19.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:
The District will follow the CDC's Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting as follows:
- Close off areas used by a sick person. Do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfection has occurred.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area as much as possible.
- If possible, wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfection.
- If waiting 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, lockers, and common areas.

Return to School After Illness with Upper Respiratory Symptoms or Fever:
- If an individual has been diagnosed with another condition/not diagnosed with COVID-19, they are able to return to school:
- With a written note from a healthcare provider stating they are clear to return to school.
- Once student is without a fever and off pain reducing medication for at least 24 hours.
- Once symptoms have improved.
- If an individual has symptoms consistent with, is diagnosed with, or tests positive for COVID-19, they are able to return to school if:
  - It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms.
  - It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.
  - It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine).
  - The individual has a written healthcare provider note clearing them to return to school.

Return to School After Covid-19 Exposure
After a student is directly exposed to Covid-19, they must stay home to quarantine for 14 days, based on CDC recommendation. After completion of the 14-day quarantine, individuals may return to school:
- If it is determined that the individual does not have Covid-19 by a health care provider who provides a return notice.
- If the individual is feeling well and has had no fever for over 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
- Return to school after confirmed COVID 19 illness
- If it is determined that an individual does not have COVID 19 they may return to school with a MD release to return note if they are feeling well and have had no fever for > 24 hr. Without fever reducing medication.

School staff are considered essential workers. Essential workers may return to work following Wayne County Department of Health guidance.

If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until:
- It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms;
- It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); and
- It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

The CDC recommends 14 days of quarantine after exposure based on the time it may take to develop illness if infected. Thus, it is possible that a person known to be infected could leave isolation earlier than a person who is quarantined because of the possibility they are infected.

School Closures
The District will collaborate with the Wayne County Department of Health to determine the parameters, conditions or metrics (e.g., increased absenteeism or increased illness in school community) that will serve as early warning signs that positive COVID-19 cases may be increasing beyond an acceptable level.
School administrators will consider closing school if absentee rates impact the ability of the school to operate safely. The District may choose to modify operations prior to closing to help mitigate a rise in cases. The District will consult Wayne County Department of Health when making such decisions.

Testing
The District will collaborate with the Wayne County Department of Health to determine circumstances or conditions that would require student or staff Covid testing to occur. Testing locations and protocols will be determined by the Wayne County Department of Health. The Lyons Central School District will refer symptomatic students or staff members to the Wayne County Department of Health.

Contact Tracing
In collaboration with the Wayne County Department of Health, the District will support contact tracing efforts by supplying records of symptomatic individuals, positive cases and proximate contacts include class attendance records, seating charts and cleaning and disinfecting logs. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the COVID-19 resource person (school nurse) will notify the public health department and be responsible for carrying out their instructions. The Covid-19 resource person and Covid-19 Safety Coordinator will be responsible with providing all contact tracing information and records to the Department of Health and will support efforts to determine how students and or staff need to be tested to adequately isolate and mitigate additional exposure to Covid-19.