Addendum 5

Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together

Connecticut State Department of Education

Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts

August 6, 2020 (Updated November 3, 2020)

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and State Department of Public Health (DPH) have collaborated to provide school districts with guidance and protocols for responding to specific COVID-19 scenarios that may occur with school reopening for the 2020–21 school year. This guidance complements the Containment Plan (p. 23) requirement of Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together, which instructs school districts to develop written protocols for containment and immediate response related to symptoms of, diagnosis of, or exposure to the virus. Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) informs the specific scenarios and actions that follow. CDC guidance and public health data are evolving and therefore, this guidance may be updated accordingly.

This document addresses issues when a student or staff person has or develops: possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19; a diagnosis of COVID-19; or exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. It describes immediate actions for removing an individual from the school setting and when to safely return them to school. School district leaders are encouraged to use this as a guide, in consultation with public health experts, including school nurses, school medical advisors, local health directors and in consideration of all specific circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result PCR or antigen tests can be accepted[3]	Isolation/Quarantine **Isolation** = when you are experiencing symptoms or have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 **Quarantine** = when you have been exposed but you are not experiencing symptoms
Individual has COVID-19 symptoms[1] but has NOT had close contact[2] to a person diagnosed with COVID-19	**If at home:** stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested. **If at school:** students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), stay in the isolation room (with adult supervision), until picked up to go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If symptoms arise **on the bus**, students should remain masked and follow the remaining measures listed above upon arrival to school. They must not be sent home on the bus. **If at school:** staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If a staff or student is ill enough to require transport to a healthcare facility, notify EMS that COVID-19 is a concern.	Individual tests[3] **negative**	Return to school once there are no symptoms for 24 hours.
		Individual tests **positive**	Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school immediately, notify personal close contacts, assist the school in contact tracing efforts[4], and answer phone calls from public health officials/ contact tracing staff. Stay in self-isolation[5] for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever[6] (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other COVID-19 symptoms.
		Individual **is not tested**	Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms **and** until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms. Can return to school earlier if obtains note from healthcare provider with alternate diagnosis.

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result PCR or antigen tests can be accepted[3]	Isolation/Quarantine **Isolation** = when you are experiencing symptoms or have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 **Quarantine** = when you have been exposed but you are not experiencing symptoms
Individual has COVID-19 symptoms[1] AND had close contact[2] to a person diagnosed with COVID-19	**If at home:** stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested. **If at school:** students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), stay in the isolation room (with adult supervision), until picked up to go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If symptoms arise **on the bus**, students should remain masked and follow the remaining measures listed above upon arrival to school. They must not be sent home on the bus. **If at school:** staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If a staff or student is ill enough to require transport to a healthcare facility, notify EMS that COVID-19 is a concern.	Individual tests **negative**	Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.
		Individual tests **positive**	Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist public health and the school in contact tracing efforts. Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.
		Individual **is not tested**	Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result PCR or antigen tests can be accepted[3]	Isolation/Quarantine **Isolation** = when you are experiencing symptoms or have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 **Quarantine** = when you have been exposed but you are not experiencing symptoms
Individual *does not have COVID-19 symptoms* BUT had close contact[2] to someone diagnosed with COVID-19	**If at home:** stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested. **If at school:** students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), be picked up to go home, consult a health care provider, and get tested. Students who do not have symptoms may remain in the health room until they are picked up, they do not have to be sent to the isolation room. They must not be sent home on the bus. **If at school:** staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested.	Individual tests **negative**	Remain home in self-quarantine[7] for 14 days from last exposure to the person diagnosed with COVID-19.
		Individual tests **positive**	Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist public health and the school in contact tracing efforts. Stay home until 10 days have passed since date of the positive COVID-19 test or if symptoms occur, 10 days since symptom onset.
		Individual **is not tested**	Remain home in self-quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to the person diagnosed with COVID-19.

End notes

1 **Key COVID-19 signs and symptoms are:** feeling feverish, measured temp 100.4 F or more, chills, uncontrolled new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell. There are other more nonspecific signs and symptoms. For a full list, see CDC Web page at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html

2 **Close contact:** Spending at least 15 minutes within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19 within 24 hours, or a direct exposure to possibly infected droplets of saliva or nasal mucus (e.g., begin sneezed or coughed on in the face). See CDC web page at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html

3 **COVID-19 test for school/work attendance:** This is a viral test, NOT an antibody test. Tests for the presence of the virus must be used. Antibody tests, which test for the individual's immune system reaction to a past viral infection should not be used to determine school attendance (see CDC information on COVID-19 tests at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html). This can include a molecular test (often called a PCR test) or an antigen test. A negative antigen test in a person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or a close contact without symptoms should be followed up with a PCR test. Find DPH guidance on the use of antigen tests here: https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/HAI/COVID-19-Healthcare-Guidance.

4 **Contact tracing:** A public health intervention in which the contacts of a person with a communicable disease are identified, and possibly tested, quarantined or isolated to interrupt the transmission of the virus in a population. https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/ContaCT

5 **Self- Isolation:** Individual with signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive test, stays home until no longer infectious for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms **and** until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other COVID-19 symptoms. See CDC web page at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html

6 **Fever:** Measured temperature of 100.4 F or higher

7 **Self-Quarantine:** Individual without symptoms stays home for 14 days since last exposure to someone who was diagnosed with COVID-19 (the incubation period of the virus). See CDC web page https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html or https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fif-you-are-sick%2Fquarantine-isolation.html