



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Policy 1648.11 The Road Forward - District Plan for Safe Return
2021-2022 School Year**

Appendix I – Screening, Exclusion and Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff Members

Health Screening Guidelines

Union County Educational Services Commission will strictly enforce screening and exclusion procedures for students, staff members and visitors as a primary strategy in the layered approach to COVID-19 prevention.

All screening and exclusion procedures will be consistent with NJDOH and CDC recommendations and remain subject to revision based on ongoing consultation with State and Local Health Officials.

Students, staff and visitors are strongly encouraged to monitor their health for signs of infectious disease, remain home from school and work, and consult with a trusted healthcare provider for evaluation and care when experiencing COVID-19 compatible symptoms regardless of vaccination status.

The Commission is actively working with the Westfield Regional Health Office and the Board’s Physician to evaluate the feasibility of implementing a COVID-19 screening testing program for students and staff.

Administrators maintain the right to prohibit entry or expel from property any student, staff member or visitor who refuses to comply with screening and exclusion protocols.

Screening Procedures for Students:

Parents and guardians will be required to sign a “COVID-19 Attestation Form” at the beginning of the year indicating their agreement to closely monitor and keep their child home from school if he or she receives positive COVID-19 test results, demonstrates COVID-19 compatible symptoms; comes in close contact with an individual with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis; or travels outside of the immediate region.

The CDC rescinded its previous recommendation for schools to conduct daily COVID-19 symptom screening for students in grades K-12 on a routine basis. Based on current guidance, students will not be required to undergo daily temperature checks upon arrival to any UCESC school or program but will be visually screened for COVID-19 compatible symptoms by appropriate trained staff.

Students who exhibit COVID-19 compatible symptoms upon arrival will also be asked to don a filtered mask (unless doing so would inhibit the student’s health or is otherwise impractical due to age or disability) and respectfully escorted to a designated isolation location for further evaluation by the School Nurse.

The School Nurse, in consultation with school or department administration, will determine whether the student is able to remain in school or must return home and seek medical evaluation and/or diagnostic testing prior to readmittance to school.

Principals or Directors are responsible for notifying the Office of the Superintendent immediately upon excluding any student from school due to any COVID-19 related reason.

Screening Procedures for Staff Members:

Staff members will be required to submit a “COVID-19 Attestation Form” at the beginning of the year to indicate his or her agreement to remain home and contact an immediate supervisor for specific guidance if he or she receives positive COVID-19 test results; demonstrates COVID-19 compatible symptoms; comes in close contact with an individual with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis; or travels outside of the immediate region.

Staff who exhibit COVID-19 compatible symptoms upon arrival to work will be given the option to immediately return home or don a filtered mask (unless doing so would inhibit the staff member’s health) and proceed to the designated isolation location to await further evaluation by the School Nurse.

The School Nurse, in consultation with the school or department administration, will determine whether the staff member is able to remain at work or must return home and seek medical evaluation and/or diagnostic testing prior to readmittance.

Principals or Directors are responsible for notifying the Office of the Superintendent immediately upon excluding any staff member from work due to any COVID-19 related reason.

Screening Procedures for Visitors:

Visitors should be kept at a minimum and permitted in UCESC schools only with prior approval of building administration when visitations are essential for school or district related matters.

Visitors include parents and family members, sending district personnel, parcel and post carriers, contracted maintenance and repair staff, and other individuals not enrolled/employed by the district

Visitors will be required to submit a “COVID-19 Attestation Form” prior to entry into the building confirming the absence of positive COVID-19 test results; COVID-19 compatible symptoms; close contact with individuals with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 diagnoses; or travel outside of the immediate region.

Visitors will also be required to provide contact information (home address, phone, email address) to facilitate contact tracing activities, if needed, prior to entry into the building.

Response to Students and Staff with COVID-19 Compatible Symptoms

The New Jersey Department of Health currently recommends that individuals with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school or work:

- At least two of the following symptoms:
 - fever, chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
- At least one of the following symptoms:
 - cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.

For individuals with pre-existing chronic illnesses, only new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

All decisions regarding exclusion and readmittance of students and staff will be made on a case-by-case basis following applicable guidelines of the NJ Department of Health/Communicable Disease Service published at: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_schools.shtml

Response to Student Illnesses:

Students who become ill during the day will be safely and respectfully accompanied to the Health Office for evaluation by the School Nurse.

Students who exhibit COVID-19 compatible symptoms will be asked to don a filtered mask (unless doing so would inhibit the student's health or is otherwise impractical due to age or disability) and remain in isolation under constant adult supervision and care until picked up by a parent, family member or authorized adult.

The Office of the Superintendent will be contacted immediately following the school exclusion of a student due to COVID-19 compatible symptoms for guidance on appropriate follow-up actions.

Response to Staff Illnesses:

Staff who become ill during the day shall report to the School Nurse for evaluation to determine if he or she is able to return to the classroom or advised to proceed home.

Staff with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater or who demonstrate the above symptoms of COVID-19 not otherwise explained will be asked to don a filtered face mask unless doing so would inhibit his or her health and sent home after consultation with the principal.

The School Nurse will follow NJ Department of Health/Communicable Disease Service guidelines for exclusion/readmittance and consult with the local health department for additional advisement.

The Office of the Superintendent will be contact immediately following the work exclusion of a staff member due to COVID-19 compatible symptoms for guidance on appropriate follow up actions.

Response to Students or Staff with a Confirmed COVID-19 Diagnosis

In the event that a school is notified that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the Principal and School Nurse will immediately notify the Office of the Superintendent before any further action.

The Superintendent or an appointed designee will immediately initiate contact tracing activities and contact the local health department to share the following information:

- Contact information of the individual who tested positive;
- Dates the individual developed symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19, and was last in the building;
- Any close contacts the individual may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations;
- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers for the individual's close contacts in the school;
- Vaccination status of the individual who tested positive and the individual's close contacts

The Superintendent or an appointed designee will make case-by-case decisions regarding exclusion of students and staff members and/or the temporary shift to remote instruction in consultation with local health officials.

The Superintendent or an appointed designee will provide timely and accurate notification of COVID-19 positive cases to all students, parents and faculty members assigned to the impacted school or department.

Students or staff members who test positive for COVID-19 will not be permitted to return to school or work until the following criteria have been fully satisfied:

- At least 5 full days have passed since symptom onset AND
- At least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever (without fever reducing medication) AND
- Improvement of COVID-19 compatible symptoms

Students or staff members who return on Day 6 are required to wear a KN-95 mask for days 6-10. Students and staff who are unable or unwilling to wear a KN-95 mask for days 6-10 will not be permitted to return to school or work until 10 full days have passed.

All screening, isolation, exclusion and readmittance procedures outlined in the document are subject to change based on updated guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health.