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CDC/NYSOD COVID-19 Protocol Updates September 2022

As you may know, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED) recently released new COVID-19 guidance for all K-12 schools based on updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The New York Mills Union Free School District will be following the new guidance as recommended by these agencies.

According to the guidance, schools will no longer be required to conduct temperature screenings, physically distance, quarantine students and staff following exposure, conduct contact tracing (however, parents should be notified of close contacts in the event that there is a positive case in a classroom setting), or report daily COVID-19 testing and case positive data.

Based on the latest guidance from the New York State Department of Health, the New York Mills Union Free School District will follow a five (5) day home isolation period for any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19.

Illness/Positive COVID-19 Test

As with any infectious illness, students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, or who show symptoms, are asked to stay home from school and follow the Centers for Disease Control's Isolation Guidance.

- *Someone who tested positive and has no symptoms may return to school after day 5.*
- *Someone who is sick (has symptoms) may return to school after day 5 if they have been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medication) and symptoms are improving. It is also recommended that they wear a well-fitted mask on days 6-10 at school when around others.*

People who have been sick, or tested positive, should wear a mask when symptoms begin or after testing positive (day 0) for COVID-19 through day 10.

"Note: After having ended isolation, if COVID-19 symptoms recur or worsen, restart isolation at day 0. Day 0 of isolation is the day of symptom onset. Staff and student's parents/guardians should be advised to talk to a healthcare provider about their symptoms or when to end isolation." (Source NYSDOH FAQ 2022-2023 August 2022 Memo)

Masks

Any student or staff member may wear a mask while at school to prevent the spread of illness. Mask-wearing is recommended for days 6-10 after coming off isolation and returning to school following a positive COVID-19 test or COVID illness.

Testing

Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin.

Health and Safety Protocols

Wash hands frequently, especially before and after eating, after using the restroom, after sneezing/blowing nose/coughing, and after recess.

Be sure to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.

Routine cleaning in our school building continues to be an important strategy for reducing the spread of illness. High-risk areas such as the health office, classrooms, cafeteria, bathrooms and high-traffic areas are cleaned regularly.

Please contact the school nurse if you have any questions.

Ms. Tatum Zumpano, K-12 School Nurse

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