

## **Grand Island Central School District Reopening Plan COVID-19 TESTING**

### ***Notification***

The District must notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual in school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The District can also refer students or staff who need tests to their primary care physician. The District will fill out the ECODH digital reporting form to indicate if a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19 (<https://www3.erie.gov/covidform>).

The District COVID-19 coordinator is Cheryl Cardone, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services.

### ***Testing Protocols***

There are two types of tests available for COVID-19:

1. Diagnostic test (swab test) - Tells you if you have a current infection.
2. Serologic antibody test (blood test) - Tells you if you had a previous infection. It is very important to remember that when antibodies to COVID-19 are found in a person, scientists do not know yet if there is protection from future infections and how long the protection lasts. COVID-19 is caused by a new virus and many studies are under way to learn more about the disease and how the immune system responds to it.

The District is responsible for referring students and/or staff to testing locations. The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) offers testing within the community. If a student or staff member was symptomatic or considered a close contact, the District will utilize the ECDOH hotline (716-858-2929) to help facilitate getting a test. The hotline has information on testing dates, locations, times, and the ability to schedule an appointment.

The ECDOH also has an interactive digital map of testing sites in Erie County which will be accessed by the District in order to refer students or staff to a testing site. The District can also contact the primary care physician of the student or staff member in order to make a referral for a COVID-19 test.

The District will also make referrals to Excelsior Orthopedics for their rapid COVID-19 testing program. If a student or staff member tests positive or negative for COVID-19, no matter the type of test, the student or staff member still should take preventive measures to protect themselves and others.

The flow chart on the next page provides a graphical representation of the protocol the District will utilize for a student or staff member who is either symptomatic or positive for COVID-19. If the student or staff member shows symptoms, they will be examined by the school nurse, isolated, and informed that they must seek medical attention and that a note from their primary care physician or a negative COVID-19 test is necessary before returning.

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If the student or staff member provides a note or proof of a negative COVID-19 test, or if it has been 10 days from the onset of symptoms, they will be allowed to return to school.

### ***Plan for returning to school***

The District will follow CDC guidance for allowing a student or staff member to return to school after exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. The returning to learning protocol must include at a minimum, documentation of evaluation by a healthcare provider, negative COVID-19 testing, and symptom resolution, or if COVID -19 positive. If a person is not diagnosed by a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) with COVID-19 they can return to school:

- Once there is no fever, without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours;
- If they have been diagnosed with another condition and has a healthcare provider written note stating they are clear to return to school.

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 onset of 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. guidance

The CDC provides specific guidance for individuals who are on home isolation regarding when the isolation may end. CDC recommendations for discontinuing isolation in persons known to be infected with COVID-19 could, in some circumstances, appear to conflict with recommendations on when to discontinue quarantine for persons known to have been exposed to COVID-19. 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.

- Duration of isolation and precautions
  - For most persons with COVID-19 illness, isolation and precautions can generally be discontinued 10 days *after symptom onset* and resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and with improvement of other symptoms.
  - A limited number of persons with severe illness may produce replication competent virus beyond 10 days that may warrant extending duration of isolation and precautions for up to 20 days after symptom onset; consider consultation with infection control experts.

- For persons who never develop symptoms, isolation and other precautions can be discontinued 10 days *after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test for SARSCoV-2 RNA*.

If an employee has had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time **AND** is experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms, the employee may return to work after completing at least 10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms.

- “Close contact” is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the person was isolated.

If an employee has had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time **AND** is not experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms, the employee may return to work upon completing 14 days of self-quarantine.

If an employee is deemed essential and critical for the operation or safety of the business, as determined by the employee’s supervisor and a human resources representative in consultation with appropriate state and local health authorities, the exposed, asymptomatic employee may return to work if the employee complies with the following practices:

- Regular monitoring: The employee must self-monitor for a temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit every 12 hours and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 under the supervision of their employer’s occupational health program.
- Wear a mask: The employee must wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after the last exposure.
- Social distance: The employee must comply with social distancing practices, including maintaining, at least, six feet of distance from others in the workplace when possible.
- Clean and disinfect workspaces: The employer must continue to regularly clean and disinfect all areas, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment.
- Maintain quarantine: The employee must continue to self-quarantine and self-monitor for temperature and symptoms when not at the workplace for 14 days after the last exposure.