

Grand Island Central School District Reopening Plan
COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING
Contact Tracing Support

In the case of an individual testing positive, the District has developed plans to support local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual, in accordance with the protocols, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program.

The Erie County Department of Health will contact the student, parent, or staff member to perform the case investigation and contact tracing.

The Erie County Department of Health will notify the school for collaboration with contact tracing and to identify close contacts. A “close contact” is someone who was within six feet or less of a person with COVID-19 for at least 10 minutes, starting from 48 hours before they started to feel symptoms, and for asymptomatic cases, from two days prior to specimen collection.

Contact tracers may consider the duration and proximity of the contacts and other criteria in determining close contacts.

A close contact will be quarantined for 14 days from the date of last exposure, advised to monitor for symptoms, and will be recommended to get a diagnostic test five days or more after exposure. Close contacts to a positive case can return to school after a 14-day quarantine period. Quarantine means staying home, monitoring for symptoms, and maintaining social distancing (at least 6 feet from others at all times). That means remaining in a specific room separate from other non-exposed people and pets in the home, and using a separate bathroom, if possible.

Individuals under quarantine who are deemed “essential” for their workplace may continue to work, with restrictions. Those restrictions include:

- Staff member must remain free of COVID-19 symptoms (asymptomatic).
- It would be feasible for the staff member to work from home, if not working would adversely affect the facility operations.
- Staff member undergoes temperature and symptom monitoring twice a day, including immediately before arrival to work and when at home.
- Staff wears a face covering while working until 14 days after last exposure.

These “essential” workers are required to maintain quarantine when they are not at work for a full 14 days after their last known exposure. If COVID-19 symptoms develop, they must stop work immediately and isolate at home. Regardless of symptoms, all contacts should consider getting a COVID-19 diagnostic test five days or more after their last known exposure. Individuals under quarantine who are not considered essential by their place of employment or who are currently not working or working at home must remain at home for 14 days after their last known exposure. They will be asked to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, and consider getting a COVID-19 diagnostic test five days or more after their last known exposure.

A positive student or staff member will be isolated for a minimum of 10-days from the start of symptoms. The student or staff member must be three days without a fever, un-medicated, and have progressive improvement in symptoms before returning.

Medical information that is shared with ECDOH contact tracers is kept confidential. A contact tracer may share information about an employee diagnosed with COVID-19 with a school district, principal, or human resources department in order to identify and contact potential close contacts. Since a COVID-19 diagnosis is protected health information, schools are advised to maintain confidentiality and avoid disclosing the identity of the employee diagnosed with COVID-19 to other staff. The locations of schools with a confirmed COVID-19 will not be announced by ECDOH unless there is a concern about an exposure to the public, and we are not able to identify close contacts through our investigation.

Protocol for Symptomatic or Positive COVID-19 Student or Staff

