



OUR SCHOOL HAS A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19. NOW WHAT?



DON'T PANIC!!!!

About 1 out of 100 New Yorkers currently are infected with COVID-19. When school opens, and people come closer together, we expect we might see cases of COVID-19 in our school. Cases can happen even if we wear masks, keep a distance from each other, wash our hands, and do everything we are supposed to do right. The reason is that these behaviors reduce the risk of disease spread, but they do not guarantee we will not get the virus. So, we should not be surprised or scared if it happens. Most people, about 8 out of 10, have a flu-like illness when they have COVID-19 and fully recover. But we should understand what might happen if someone in our school gets sick with COVID-19 because their illness can affect us.

Someone gets sick with possible covid-19

This person is sent to the health office

The school nurse thinks this might be covid-19 and puts the person into a containment room so they can rest comfortably until someone comes to pick them up. They have to wear a mask and must stay away from others, at least six feet.

When they are picked up, the school nurse will suggest that they call their private physician or other health care provider that day to discuss whether to go directly for a covid-19 test

After testing, if done, the person will be asked to isolate at home for at least 10 days, until they are without fever for 72 hours, off all fever reducing medicine, and are feeling better, able to learn, symptoms improving. They need to bring in a letter or health certificate from their physician as well as a hipaa/ferpa release and covid-19 test results

Meanwhile, while they are home getting better, back at school, close contacts within 6 ft for more than 10 minutes will have gotten a call from the public health dept. That they were exposed to a person positive for covid-19. They will be asked to self-quarantine at home for 14-days from the date of their exposure, advised to check their temperature twice a day, and to watch for symptoms. Proximate contacts more than 6 ft for longer times may also asked to do the same, if the public health dept decides there is a significant risk for them, too. The school will send out a general letter to the entire building alerting everyone to do a daily health survey because of the positive case in the building.

Any area of the building that required quarantine is closed & disinfected before anyone can reenter.

Depending on the number of contacts, a few people, an entire class, a wing or corridor, or even the entire building may need to quarantine for 14-days following an exposure. Isolation and quarantine should not alarm anyone. These are precautionary measures to safeguard us all when covid-19 is discovered.

