

**North Colonie Central School District**

91 Fiddlers Lane  
Latham, NY 12110

*All information is subject to change based on updated guidance from the NYS/Albany County Department of Health and/or the Centers for Disease Control, updated as of 9/23/2021.*

## **COVID Return to School Protocol**

### **FOR STUDENTS**

Your child has been identified with symptoms which could be consistent with a COVID-19 diagnosis. We strongly recommend that you have your child seen by a healthcare provider or the local Department of Health, within 48 hours.

*Per New York State Department of Health regulations, if you do not have your child evaluated by a healthcare provider or produce a negative COVID test, within forty-eight (48) hours of symptom onset, North Colonie is required to report this to the Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) for follow-up. Once reported, ACDOH will contact you to discuss the case and begin contact tracing.*

Please note: Per the updated NYS Department of Health and Albany County Department of Health guidance, any student who is exhibiting a COVID symptom cannot return to school based on a negative result from a rapid SARS-coV-2 antigen test.

Only lab-based PCR tests or CEPHEID Xpert Xpress machine COVID tests are acceptable to return to school.

The following describes the protocols the NYS Department of Health has put in place to ensure a safe return to school.

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### **If you choose to have your child evaluated by a healthcare provider within 48 hours and:**

- **Your child receives a negative COVID test result**
  - Provide results of a Negative lab-based PCR COVID diagnostic test (copy of lab results or physician documentation)
  - Ensure that all symptoms must be improving
  - Ensure that the child is fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
  - Ensure that there is no vomiting or diarrhea for at least the previous 12 hours

## **Please Note:**

- If your child is diagnosed with another health condition and prescribed an antibiotic, the child must complete 24 hours of the antibiotic medication prior to returning to school.
- A North Colonie Nurse may be contacting you to inquire about the status of the child.

## **If you choose to have your child evaluated by a healthcare provider within 48 hours and:**

- **Your child receives a positive COVID test result:**

- Obtain a written release from isolation from the local DOH, stating that the child is able to return to school, which is typically:
  - 10 days have passed since the date of the positive test or the first symptoms have appeared
  - The child has been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
  - The child's symptoms are improving
  - There has been no vomiting or diarrhea for at least the previous 12 hours

## **Please note:**

- While the ill person is in isolation, all members of the household must quarantine at home until released by the local health department, typically ten (10) days after last contact with a positive patient (monitor for symptoms for an additional 4 days)
- If your child is diagnosed with another health condition and prescribed an antibiotic, the child must complete 24 hours of the antibiotic medication prior to returning to school.
- A local health department will notify parent/school and provide exact return to school date
- A North Colonie Nurse may be contacting you to inquire about the status of the child.

## **If you choose to have your child evaluated by a healthcare provider within 48 hours and:**

- **Your child receives a laboratory confirmed alternate diagnosis**

- Obtain a written diagnosis from the healthcare provider for a laboratory confirmed acute illness (ex: laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat, etc.).
- The healthcare provider must indicate that COVID is not suspected.
- The note from the **healthcare provider must detail the alternate diagnosis as well as a release to return to school.**
  - Note: a signed note from a health care provider documenting an unconfirmed acute illness, such as a viral upper respiratory illness or viral gastroenteritis, will not suffice.

**Please note:**

- A North Colonie Nurse may be contacting you to inquire about the status of the child.
- If your child is diagnosed with a health condition and prescribed an antibiotic, the child must complete 24 hours of the antibiotic medication prior to returning to school.

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**If your child has a PRE -EXISTING condition that presents itself with COVID-like symptoms (runny nose, cough, headache etc.):**

- **Your child has a pre-existing condition**
  - students with pre existing conditions on the first sign of symptoms will need to be sent out on the first occurrence and must obtain a Lab based PCR Covid test. Once the negative PCR result is received , please send an email or fax of the report to the school nurse for clearance. The nurse will let you know the child is cleared to return. At that time please also submit the new note from the healthcare provider for the present school year.
  - The new note from the **healthcare provider must detail the pre-existing condition, along with all-related symptoms, unchanged symptoms, and must indicate that COVID is not suspected.**

**If you choose NOT to have your child evaluated by a healthcare provider within 48 hours:**

- Your child must remain out of school for at least ten (10) calendar days after the first symptom(s) is identified. At the end of the 10 days:
  - ensure that all symptoms are improving
  - ensure that your child has been fever-free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medication

**Please note:**

- Per New York State Department of Health regulations, if you do not have your child evaluated by a healthcare provider or produce a negative COVID test, within forty-eight (48) hours of symptom onset, **North Colonie is required to report this to the Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) for follow-up.**
  - Once reported, ACDOH will contact you to discuss the case and begin contact tracing.
- A North Colonie Nurse may be contacting you to inquire about the status of the child.

**If your child presents with COVID-like symptoms (runny nose, cough, etc.) and your child tested positive for COVID in the last 90 days or your child has received their final vaccination.**

- Your child must remain out of school until:
  - All symptoms are improving
  - Your child has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
  - If symptoms are not improving, individual should contact a medical provider for guidance

**Please note:**

- Your child does not need a negative Covid test to return to school, unless ordered by their physician

## **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

### **If your child has traveled internationally within the last seven (7) days and they are NOT vaccinated:**

- Your child must:
  - Remain out of school for seven days following the date of return
  - Get tested for COVID via PCR test within 3-5 days after return from travel
  - Self quarantine for 10 days if you choose not to get a Lab Based PCR Test

If the PCR test results are NEGATIVE

- Your student can return to school after completing the seven day quarantine

If the PCR test results are POSITIVE

- Follow the county protocols for a positive test result

### **If your child has traveled internationally within the last seven (7) days and they are vaccinated:**

- Your child must:
  - Get tested for COVID via PCR test within 3-5 days after return from travel
  - Remain out of school until COVID test results are received
  - Can return to school upon receipt of a negative test result, or after ten (10) days if a COVID test is not performed and the student is asymptomatic.

If the PCR test results are POSITIVE

- Follow the county protocols for a positive test result

**Please note:** These rules do not apply to domestic travel. Currently there are no restrictions or testing requirements related to return after domestic travel.

# **SIBLINGS**

**If your children are at school and one child becomes symptomatic:**

**If your other child(ren) are vaccinated:**

- o Siblings of the symptomatic student who are vaccinated WILL NOT be sent home from school, unless they become symptomatic, and can continue to come to school unless they become symptomatic or there is a positive test result.
- o If your child later tests positive for COVID, vaccinated siblings who are asymptomatic do not have to stay home from school. They should wear a mask for 14 days even at home, and it is recommended they test 3 to 5 days after the initial exposure.

**If your other child(ren) are NOT vaccinated:**

- o Siblings of the symptomatic student who are not vaccinated WILL be sent home from school, regardless if they are asymptomatic.
- o All unvaccinated students must remain out of school until the symptomatic student completes the "Return to School" protocol above.

## **Resources:**

[Pre-K to Gr 12 COVID-19 Toolkit:](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/prek-gr12_toolkit.pdf)

[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/prek-gr12\\_toolkit.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/prek-gr12_toolkit.pdf)

COVID guidelines and best practices

Signs of COVID: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs-11x17-en.pdf>

Handwashing for children:

[https://www.google.com/search?q=hand+washing+video+for+kids&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enUS858US858&oq=hand+washing+vi&aqs=chrome.69j69j57j0l5.7752j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=hand+washing+video+for+kids&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS858US858&oq=hand+washing+vi&aqs=chrome.69j69j57j0l5.7752j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

How to don and doff a mask:

[https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+don+and+doff+mask&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enUS858US858&oq=how+to+don+and+&aqs=chrome.5.0l2j69j57j0l5.6746j1j9&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+don+and+doff+mask&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS858US858&oq=how+to+don+and+&aqs=chrome.5.0l2j69j57j0l5.6746j1j9&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

Find a test site near you <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you> or NYS COVID-19 Test Finder webpage

Where to get the COVID vaccine:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/How-Do-I-Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>