

## **Testing**

At the minimum, [New York State Department of Health Guidelines](#) requires “documentation from a health care provider following evaluation, negative COVID 19 diagnostic test result and symptom resolution, or if COVID 19 positive, release from isolation.”

- Any symptomatic student or staff awaiting testing results should self-quarantine and will not be allowed to return to school until released by a *negative* COVID-19 test result.
- If an individual is confirmed as positive for COVID-19, individuals should follow isolation protocols within their homes for 10 days per CDC guidelines. An individual must be in isolation for 10 days and symptom free for 72 hours before a release from isolation may be considered. Release from isolation will be determined solely by the Rensselaer County Health Department. A release letter provided the Rensselaer County Health Department will be required for the student to return to school.
- If a confirmed test result occurs, the Rensselaer County Department of Health will be notified by the laboratory performing the test. Individuals will be also be notified by either the initial testing facility or their local health department for negative results. **The parents of any student who has tested positive must notify the school district as soon as possible.** If this were to occur, the school district will contact the Rensselaer County Department of Health for confirmation and collaboration in beginning contact tracing activities. The district COVID-19 School Resource Person for the school will coordinate with the Rensselaer County Health Department for contact tracing purposes.
- In the event a student is under mandatory quarantine by the Rensselaer County Health Department, the school district will provide remote learning options for the student for the length of their quarantine.
- Per the New York State Department of Education's guidance to schools for reopening, [Recovering, Rebuilding, and Renewing: The Spirit of New York's Schools](#), “it is strongly recommended that schools comply with CDC guidance and not conduct COVID-19 testing or require testing or antibody testing of students or staff members. The decision of whether a test needs to be conducted should be determined by a healthcare provider or the local department of health. [CDC Interim Considerations for K-12 School Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing](#) Schools should identify who in the community is responsible for referring, sourcing, and administering testing (e.g., local health department testing site, physician offices, hospital system) particularly in the event that large-scale testing at the school is needed. Schools wanting to perform COVID-19 testing must apply and be approved as a limited service laboratory (LSL). Please refer to the [instructions and application materials](#), and if applicable, the worksheet for [multiple locations](#).” **Therefore, the school district will not be testing individuals.**

A list of regionally available **testing locations** is available on the school district website at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you> for individuals that may want to be tested on their own.