New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 Weekly Call for School Partners

**Agenda:**

- Opening Remarks – Dr. Ben Chan, Dr. Elizabeth Talbot, Dr. Beth Daly
- Q&A – To ask a question, use the Q&A feature in Zoom
  - Hover over bottom of Zoom screen to find “Q&A”
  - This is a public call, be careful about what you share (no confidential/sensitive information)
  - Ask general questions, individual consultation should be directed to the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (ask for a public health staff members)
Resources Update


• Toolkit with the Algorithm/Flow Chart is available: https://www.nh.gov/covid19/resources-guidance/schools.htm

• School-related HAN is being planned for next week
Weekly Educational Partner Call

• Moving to Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 pm every week
• Next call will be Thursday 9/3 from 3:30-4:30 pm
• Call-in information will remain the same:
  – Zoom link: https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/98062195081
  – Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
  – Meeting ID: 980 6219 5081
  – Passcode: 197445
CDC’s “After-Travel” Guidance

“You may have been exposed to COVID-19 on your travels. You may feel well and not have any symptoms, but you can be contagious without symptoms and spread the virus to others. You and your travel companions (including children) pose a risk to your family, friends, and community for 14 days after you were exposed to the virus. Regardless of where you traveled or what you did during your trip, take these actions to protect others from getting sick after you return:

• When around others, stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people who are not from your household. It is important to do this everywhere, both indoors and outdoors.
• Wear a mask to keep your nose and mouth covered when you are outside of your home.
• Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
• Watch your health and look for symptoms of COVID-19. Take your temperature if you feel sick.

Follow state, territorial, tribal and local recommendations or requirements after travel.”
NH’s After-Travel Guidance

• Quarantine for 14 days after your last day of travel outside of New England (ME, VT, MA, RI, CT).

• Some exceptions are made for essential travel and essential workers (e.g., teachers traveling to bring their children to college at the beginning of the school year)

• NH “Travel and Quarantine Guidance & Employer Screening and Exclusion Criteria” has been updated: https://www.nh.gov/covid19/resources-guidance/businesses.htm.

• NH’s Universal Guidelines also undergoing an update: https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/
Guidance on Exclusion and Testing of Symptomatic Students or Staff

- Any student or staff with any **new or unexplained** symptoms of COVID-19 should be sent home and the parent/guardians should be instructed to contact the child’s healthcare provider for COVID-19 testing.

- The person can be allowed to return to school when one of the following three conditions are met:
  1. Approved COVID-19 testing is negative, and person’s symptoms are improving and is fever-free for at least 24 hours off any fever-reducing medications. Approved tests include:
     - PCR-based test (molecular test)
     - Quidel Sofia antigen testing is conducted within 5 days of symptom onset
  2. Person has met CDC criteria for **discontinuation of isolation**
Real-Life Example

• A child has a fever >100.3 F and a sore throat. Pediatrician was contacted and they are not going to test for COVID-19, but monitor the child.

• Questions:
  – Is the child required to quarantine for 10 days? What if the child improves after a couple days?
  – Is the parent able to return to work sooner? (i.e., does the parent need to quarantine... or sibling?)
Response

• Is the child required to quarantine for 10 days? What if the child improves after a couple days?

RESPONSE:

– If the child is NOT tested, they are required to isolate for at least 10 days from onset of symptoms AND needs to be fever free with other symptoms improving for at least 24 hours (off any fever-reducing medications) before being allowed off isolation... Regardless of whether or not the child improves after a couple of days.

– If the child IS tested with an approved test (see FAQs, HAN, etc.) and is negative, the child can be let off isolation once fever free and improving for 24 hours.
Reaction and Response

• Is the staff member able to return to school sooner?
  – See FAQ document (pg. 11) “When a Student has symptoms that may be COVID-19, should their sibling(s) be sent home and attend school remotely until the sick student has tested negative”
  – This would also apply to staff who have sick children
Managing Siblings of Symptomatic Students

Managing siblings of students with new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19, based on the symptomatic students’ COVID-19 risk factors and testing status:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Testing</th>
<th>Action:</th>
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| None        | Yes (pending) | Symptomatic student isolates pending test result.  
                  Siblings can remain in school as long as they remain asymptomatic. |
| Present     | Yes (pending) | Symptomatic student isolates pending test result.  
                  Siblings should be instructed to stay home from school (quarantine). |
| None        | No       | Symptomatic student must remain on isolation until they have met CDC’s  
                  criteria for discontinuation of isolation.  
                  Sibling may remain in school as long as they remain asymptomatic. |
| Present     | No       | Symptomatic student must remain on isolation until they have met CDC’s  
                  criteria for discontinuation of isolation.  
                  Sibling should quarantine for 14 days from last day of exposure. |
| None or Present | Positive | All close household contacts (including siblings) must quarantine and get tested  
                  for COVID-19 using a PCR-based test. |
| None        | Negative | Student can return to school when fever free for ≥24 hours (off fever reducing  
                  medication) and other symptoms improving (if appropriate test is performed).  
                  Sibling can remain in school as long as they remain asymptomatic. |
| Present     | Negative | Student with risk factors must quarantine for 14 days from last day of exposure.  
                  Sibling can remain in school as long as they remain asymptomatic. |
Proposed Solutions


• With the start of the school year approaching, NH DPHS recommends that students or staff with any new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 be excluded from school and tested for COVID-19; this is consistent with recommendations in other settings. Students and staff can be allowed to return to school when either of the following criteria are met:
  o Person has tested negative using one of the approved testing methods below, AND the person’s symptoms are improving and is fever-free for at least 24 hours off any fever-reducing medications. Approved tests include:
    1. A RT-PCR test (molecular test)
    2. Quidel Sofia antigen test conducted within 5 days of symptom onset
  o Person has met criteria for discontinuation of isolation if they test positive or do not undergo testing (person will be out of school for a minimum of 10 days after onset of symptoms)

• Parent should seek testing for their child in other locations: https://www.nh.gov/covid19/resources-guidance/testing-guidance.htm

• You should circulate this testing resource to all your parents and staff
NH will purchase 25 rapid test machines

Accurate test results take just 15 minutes, officials say
Any new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19?

Yes

Exclude & instruct person to **self-isolate** and seek testing

No

Close contact with a person confirmed with COVID-19?

Yes

Exclude, contact DPHS, conduct enhanced cleaning and disinfection of spaces used by person, and work with DPHS to conduct investigation. Person can return when they have meet criteria for discontinuation of isolation

No

Test Results

Negative: Return when afebrile for ≥24 hours off any fever-reducing medicine, and symptoms improved

Inconclusive or indeterminate: Exclude, and person should be re-tested

Positive or Not Tested: Exclude, contact DPHS, conduct enhanced cleaning and disinfection of spaces used by person, and work with DPHS to conduct investigation. Person can return when they have meet criteria for discontinuation of isolation

Test Results

Negative or Not Tested: Minimum 14 day **self-quarantine** from last day of exposure; if person develops symptoms then re-test

Inconclusive or indeterminate: Person should be re-tested; minimum 14 day **self-quarantine** from last day of exposure

Test Results

Positive: Exclude, contact DPHS, conduct enhanced cleaning and disinfection of spaces used by person, and work with DPHS to conduct investigation. Person can return when they have meet criteria for discontinuation of isolation

Test Results

Inconclusive or indeterminate: Person should be re-tested; minimum 14 day **self-quarantine** from last day of exposure

Negative or Not Tested: Minimum 14 day **self-quarantine** from last day of exposure; if person develops symptoms then re-test

Test Results

Yes

Test Results

Inconclusive or indeterminate: Person should be re-tested; minimum 14 day **self-quarantine** from last day of exposure

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Positive: Exclude, contact DPHS, conduct enhanced cleaning and disinfection of spaces used by person, and work with DPHS to conduct investigation. Person can return when they have meet criteria for discontinuation of isolation

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Negative or Not Tested: Minimum 14 day **self-quarantine** from last day of exposure; if person develops symptoms then re-test

Test Results

Inconclusive or indeterminate: Person should be re-tested; minimum 14 day **self-quarantine** from last day of exposure

Test Results
Travel outside of NH, ME, VT, MA, CT, or RI in the prior 14 days?  

Yes: Follow these steps:  
1. Place a surgical mask on the symptomatic person  
2. Escort (from a distance) the person to a designated private isolation room in the nurses office and close the door, if safe to do so  
3. Record the person’s temperature and perform a brief assessment of the person’s symptoms:  
   a. Keep any assessment brief  
   b. Stay at least 6 feet away, to the extent possible  
   c. When in the same room as the person, nurse should wear a surgical face mask  
   d. Wear eye protection if within 6 feet of the person, or if the symptomatic individual is unable to wear a face mask (even if more than 6 feet away)  
   e. If prolonged close contact, or contact with a person’s respiratory secretions is anticipated, wear full PPE (surgical mask, eye protection, gown, gloves)  
   f. Avoid aerosol generating procedures  
4. Send the person home by private transportation  
5. Follow the algorithm for managing a symptomatic person

No: Allow entry into facility & person should monitor for symptoms
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