

Sauquoit Valley Contact Tracing Plan

What is contact tracing? Contact tracing is used by health departments to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases. Contact tracing involves identifying people who have an infectious disease (cases) and people who they came in contact with (contacts) and working with them to interrupt the spread of disease..

What can a person diagnosed with COVID-19 expect to happen during contact tracing?

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, a case investigator from the health department may call you to check-in on your health, discuss who you've been in contact with, and ask where you spent time while you may have been infectious and able to spread COVID-19 to others. You will also be asked to stay at home and self-isolate, if you are not doing so already.

In the event that the District needs to engage in the contact tracing process, our designated COVID liaisons will work with school personnel, data systems, and the Oneida County Department of Health to access the appropriate information and resources necessary for DOH Contact tracing. COVID liaisons will work with DOH to ensure that any recommendations provided by DOH for the school to follow, are communicated and implemented appropriately.

Sauquoit Valley Central School has identified the following persons (roles) as the COVID-19 liaisons to the Oneida County Department of Health:

Elementary School:

1. Tracy Day: Nurse - 315.839.6328
2. Mark Putnam: Principal - 315.839.6327 (backup)

Middle School:

1. Renee Bonafield : Nurse (Effective September 10, 2020) - 315.839.6372
2. Pete Madden: Principal - 315.839.6371 (backup)

High School:

1. Sue Deis: Nurse - 315.839.6317
2. Brian Read: Principal - 315.839.6316 (backup)

COVID Coordinator:

Ron Wheelock: Superintendent - 315.839.6311

Contact tracing phone number in New York is (518-387-9993), PLEASE answer the phone. Answering the phone will keep your loved ones and community safe.

Protocols for symptomatic individuals and positive cases in school proximate contacts:

Procedure to follow if a student presents symptoms of COVID-19

1. If a student develops symptoms while in school, he/she should immediately be removed from the classroom and referred to the nurses office for isolation. All other students or staff contact except medical personnel will be restricted. Limit student movement to other areas of the building. PPE use by the nursing staff is required. A cursory exam to assure that the student is in no danger will be performed (vital signs and pulse oximetry if available and complaint directed exam). Obtain further history to verify if there is a valid possibility of COVID-19 infection.
2. Parents should be notified that acutely ill students, especially with signs of lower respiratory infection (cough and dyspnea), fever and possible Corona virus exposure should not be sent to school. The student should be evaluated, tested and ultimately cleared by the family health care provider before returning to school..
3. Mask use, physical distancing and personal hygiene protocols should be in place and followed at all times.
4. Notify parents for immediate pickup and transport for medical care. Have student exit via the shortest and most direct route.
5. Document all potential close contacts and locations the student visited that day for future use if the student tests positive.
6. Disinfect isolation per environmental protocol.

If an employee tests positive for COVID-19.

All District staff must immediately notify state and local health departments and cooperate with contact tracing efforts, including notification of potential contacts, such as workers or visitors who had close contact with the individual, while maintaining confidentiality required by state and federal law and regulations.

- Workers that test positive shall report such information to their direct supervisor.
- The direct supervisor shall report this information to the Superintendent and will contact the designated Building Level COVID liaison (building nurse).
- The COVID liaison will communicate with the Oneida County Department of Health and assist with contact tracing protocols.

Mitigation of additional exposure to COVID-19:

- Symptomatic students and staff must be tested and receive a negative result before returning to the school. Other family members of affected student or staff in the school may be subject to quarantine as directed by DOH.

Will District perform COVID testing: In accordance with the Oneida County Department of Health, and NYSED guidance, no members of the school District will conduct COVID testing. Those needing COVID testing are to refer to the testing sites shared under “SVCSD Testing Plan”.