

TESTING & CONTACT TRACING

Testing

If and when a student presents signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), the individual should be sent home. The parent or guardian of the student should consult with their child's doctor if they should be tested for COVID-19. Staff members who report any symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary care primary and discuss whether or not testing is appropriate. If a family does not have a doctor or the doctor is unavailable, individuals should call the Basset Healthcare at 607-547-5555 or visit the UHS Chenango Memorial virtual screening tool at <https://nyuhs.zipnosis.com/>. For a list of testing sites in the Central New York area, please check out <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>

Please note that when an individual with symptoms is tested for COVID-19, they are asked to quarantine by their healthcare provider until they receive their test result. If the test comes back negative, they are notified by their healthcare provider and no longer need to quarantine and may return to school after symptoms have resolved; unless the individual was placed into quarantine due to an exposure to a positive case. In this instance, the individual will complete the full quarantine period regardless of a negative test result. If the test comes back positive, they are notified by their healthcare provider and Chenango County Health Department will contact them for a case investigation. The individual will be issued an order for isolation for a minimum of 10 days from symptom onset. Chenango County Department of Health will conduct daily follow up and release the individual from isolation when appropriate.

Testing to return to work/school after being positive and being served isolation orders by the local health department is not practical due to the following:

1. You can still test positive after meeting criteria to being released from isolation because the test may be picking up dead virus
2. The lengthy amount of time it is taking to receive test results 2-7 days
3. Most local testing sites are still prioritizing tests for people who are symptomatic, essential workers
4. NYS Testing Sites will test anyone but are a greater travel distance and again there is a several day return on test results.

****A positive individual who is provided with isolation orders and put in isolation by Chenango County Public Health will receive a release letter from our office, when they meet the criteria for release.**

Contact Tracing

The Chenango County Health Department will be responsible for all contact tracing as they would any positive case of COVID-19 in Chenango County. They will work closely with the school district and family to identify all close contacts (those who came within six feet of the positive case for at least 10 minutes). Those individuals will be notified and issued quarantine orders. They will receive daily follow up from Chenango County staff to monitor symptoms and ensure compliance. The Chenango County Health Department will provide the school district on guidance related to cleaning and disinfecting as well as additional testing of students or staff. School building, or applicable sections thereof, with positive case should be shut down for at least 24 hours for cleaning and disinfecting, and so that contact tracing can be done.



