

Return to Work/School Procedures and COVID-19 Instructions

Submitted by our School Nurses in Collaboration with our Human Resources Department
September 11, 2020

Recommendations to School Board for Changes to Student and Employee Handbooks:

Scenario: Individual has symptoms of COVID-19 outlined in the screening questionnaire (identified either by screener at the school OR identified by the individual/parent before arrival at school and thus resulting in absence) OR such symptoms develop during the course of the school day, that cannot be clearly attributed to previously known/diagnosed chronic conditions.

Protocol for return to work/school:

- Provide written documentation of COVID-19 test result to either Human Resources (staff) or school nurse (students) in accordance with the New Hampshire Department of Public Health Services (NH DPHS - a division of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services) guidance AND person is fever-free, without fever-reducing medication, for at least 24 hours AND other symptoms are improving (per routine school procedure);

OR

- Person can provide written medical documentation that specific symptoms are chronic (not new) and part of a pre-existing medical condition;

OR

- If symptoms are new and testing is not conducted, individuals will be treated as a suspected COVID-19 infection and allowed to return to school after the current criteria set by DPHS are met for removal from home isolation.

Scenario: Exposure to CONFIRMED case of COVID-19

Protocol for return to work/school:

- The individual must self-quarantine for 14 days from last exposure, and provide medical or public health documentation that quarantine has been met (in the case of a true positive COVID-19 test, NH DPHS will monitor and provide such documentation).
- Individual cannot test out of 14-day self-quarantine in NH.

Scenario: Exposure to SUSPECTED case of COVID-19

Protocol for return to work/school:

- If person suspected of COVID-19 undergoes testing in accordance with NH DPHS guidance and result is negative, individual in close contact may return to school.
- If suspected case is not tested, then student in close contact should self-quarantine for 14 days from last day of exposure to the individual, unless otherwise specified by NH DPHS.

Important note: siblings/parents of those with mild, non-specific illness (i.e. just a runny nose) do not have to quarantine. Siblings/parents of children who are undergoing testing for highly suspect symptoms (i.e. cough with fever, new loss of taste/smell, or risk factor such as travel/exposure) should be excluded until testing is complete. Consultation between the school nurse and DPHS should occur if there is any question on this)

Scenario: Traveled outside of New England States (NH, ME, CT, RI, MA, VT) in prior 14 days

Protocol for return to work/school:

- If the individual traveled outside of New England, the individual must self-quarantine for 14 days from the last day of travel outside of New England. It is up to individual/guardian to provide attestation that the quarantine has been completed.
- Individual cannot test out of 14-day self-quarantine in NH.

Scenario: Confirmed case of COVID-19 reported to school

Protocol for return to work/school:

- The individual with COVID-19 can return to school after current criteria set by DPHS are met, and provides medical or public health documentation that self isolation requirement has been met. This documentation will be provided by DPHS.
- A follow-up negative test is not required for return to school

If circumstances arise that are not explicitly covered in the above, a school nurse in the Raymond School District will be consulted, and will refer to the most up to date Public Health

recommendations from DPHS. If the school nurse is unable to advise or needs further support, then she/he will consult with NH DPHS directly.

Additional Clarification:

All non-essential travel is strongly discouraged by the district. If employee(s) choose to travel outside of New England during these unprecedented times they will be subject to a 14-day quarantine upon their return. With *prior* approval from the Superintendent only, the employee *may* be allowed to telework during this time (depending upon specific job responsibilities).

Telephone Number for the NH DPHS - **(603) 271-4501**