

## Response 2: Reopening Operations, Monitoring, Containment & Closure

The required items below are detailed on pages 3-6 of the DOH Interim Guidance.

### 2b. Monitoring

Monitoring includes protocols and procedures to track health conditions at schools. The minimum required items below are detailed on page 5 of the DOH Interim Guidance. Please provide detailed responses to the following organized by the bulleted, bolded headings identified below.

ACS has protocols and procedures to track health conditions at the schools. These include the screening of persons, the referral for testing, identification of who is responsible for referring, sourcing, and administering testing, and defined metrics for early warning signs.

#### Screening:

Protocols and procedures for mandatory health screenings, including temperature checks of students, faculty, staff, and where applicable, contractors, vendors, and visitors to identify any individuals who may have COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Responsible parties should consider limiting the number of visitors permitted on school grounds or in school facilities, and if visitors are allowed, screening of such visitors. Students not admitted for medical reasons (fever, coughing, etc.), which should be documented, must be provided with home instruction, which may be on-line, and ideally commencing the same day. While some charter schools have relied on districts to provide home-bound instruction, each charter should have a plan in place for instruction of students not admitted to school for medical reasons as well as sick and quarantined students during the 2020-21 school year;

Every student and staff member will have their temperature taken every day they report to the building. The first temperature reading will be conducted at home and reported through a Google form before departing to school or entering any school facility. A second temperature screening will be conducted upon entry to the building to ensure individuals are within the healthy parameters.

If an individual presents a temperature greater than 100.0F, the individual will be denied entry into the school, or sent to a dedicated area to wait to be picked up. These records will not be kept but discarded daily. Every individual will also answer a daily screening questionnaire at home before reporting to school, on a Google form which they will submit electronically by a specified time. The questions posed are:

1. Did I receive a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, or have close contact with someone with such diagnosis within the last two weeks?
2. Am I awaiting the results of a COVID-19 diagnostic test [not an antibody test] that I took recently?
3. Do I currently have any flu-like symptoms (including, among others, coughing, chills, fever, difficulty breathing, or fatigue)?
4. (For children) Do I have any gastrointestinal tract symptoms (including, among others, stomachache, diarrhea, vomiting, cramps)?
5. Did I travel internationally or to any state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19, per the New York State Travel Advisory, in the past two weeks?

Only individuals who answer in the negative to each of these questions and have a temperature reading within healthy parameters will be allowed to enter the school buildings.

#### Positive screen protocols

If an individual answers in the positive to any of the questions on the questionnaire they will not be allowed entry to the school building. The protocols to be followed for each answer are as follows:

- 1. Did I receive a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, or have close contact with someone with such diagnosis within the last two weeks?**
  - The individual will need to quarantine for a minimum of fourteen days and get a written notice from a health care provider clearing the individual to return to the school building.
- 2. Am I awaiting the results of a COVID-19 diagnostic test (not an antibody test) that I took recently?**
  - The individual will need to submit to the school authority written notice of a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test before being allowed to enter the building.
- 3. Do I currently have any flu-like symptoms (including, among others, coughing, chills, fever, difficulty breathing, or fatigue)?**
  - The individual will need to see a healthcare professional to determine if a COVID-19 diagnostic test is required. A written notice from the health care provider clearing the individual to return to the school building is required.
- 4. (For children) Do I have any gastrointestinal tract symptoms [including, among others, stomachache, diarrhea, vomiting, cramps]?**
  - Because children may be less likely to present with fever as an initial symptom, and may only have gastrointestinal tract symptoms, these must be reported to ensure the health safety of every individual in the school building. The child must be checked out by a healthcare professional who will determine if a COVID-19 diagnostic test is required or if the child can be allowed to return to the school building. A written notice from the healthcare professional will be required for the child to return to the building.
- 5. Did I travel internationally or to any state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19, per the New York State Travel Advisory, in the past two weeks?**
  - The individual will need to quarantine for fourteen days before returning to the school building.

#### Positive Screens at the School protocols

Any individual who screens positive for COVID-19 exposure or symptoms at the school will be immediately isolated in the school building and sent home with written instructions to contact their healthcare provider for assessment and testing. This written notice will suggest local healthcare providers and testing sites.

Students who are being sent home because of a positive screen (e.g. possible onset of COVID-19 symptoms) will be immediately separated from other students and supervised until their parent/legal guardian or emergency contact can pick them up. They will be sent home with written instructions to contact their healthcare provider for assessment and testing and information on resources for health care and testing. ACS will immediately notify the state and local health department about the case if the diagnostic test results are positive for COVID-19. These students will continue their instruction remotely by ACS the same day.

All students and staff members will be required to immediately disclose when their responses to the aforementioned questions changes, such as, if they begin to experience symptoms including during or outside of school hours.

The school principal will designate a central point of contact who will be responsible for receiving and attesting to having reviewed all screening activities. The school principal is the central contact to whom

individuals will inform if they later experience COVID-19- related symptoms or COVID-19 exposure, as noted on the questionnaire.

#### In-person Screening

ACS will ensure that any personnel performing in-person screening activities, including temperature checks, will be appropriately protected from exposure to the virus by wearing gloves, an N-95 mask, a gown, and face shield. These personnel will be trained by the Department of Health nurse assigned to the school, who is familiar with CDC, DOH, and OSHA protocols.

#### **Health Testing Protocols:**

Process for the provision or referral of diagnostic testing for students, faculty, and staff for COVID-19, in consultation with local health department officials, when needed, which should include plans for testing for symptomatic individuals, close contacts of COVID-19 confirmed individuals, and individuals with recent international travel or travel within a state with widespread transmission of COVID-19 as designated through the New York State Travel Advisory (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>), before allowing such individuals to return to in-person attendance at the school.

ACS will refer students, faculty, and staff to local health facilities for testing of COVID-19. As described in the above section, individuals will be referred for testing if symptomatic, had close contact with COVID-19 individuals confirmed, conducted recent international travel or travel within a state with wide-spread transmission of COVID-19 as designated through the New York Travel Advisory.

#### **Health Testing Responsibility:**

Identification of 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.

The school principal will refer individuals to the local health department testing sites and/or nearby hospitals for administering testing. For Amber East Harlem, Settlement Health clinic [which is right next door], Mount Sinai Hospital, Harlem Hospital, and Metropolitan Hospital are all sources for testing. For Amber Kingsbridge, SOMOS: Ola Pediatrics [which is down the block], AFC Urgent Care, City MD Urgent Care, and Columbia Presbyterian Allen Pavilion Hospital are all sources for testing.

#### **Early Warning Signs:**

Defined metrics that will serve as early warning signs that positive COVID-19 cases may be increasing beyond an acceptable levels, established by DOH and local health departments; define and describe how the education corporation/school will deploy method(s) to monitor against such metrics.

The New York Department of Health has defined the metrics of which we must be vigilant to see early warning signs that the pandemic is on the rise. DOH looks at hospital admissions, critical care capacity and positive test rates. In the span of ten days NYC DOH wants the hospital admissions rate to be below 200; critical care capacity to be below 375 and positive test rates fewer than 15%. ACS leadership will stay abreast of the latest data from the NYC DOH and monitor the local rates of these metrics.

In addition, the early warning signs for ACS will be identified for each school building. If there are more than three positive cases reported in three separate pods within five days, this is a definite early warning sign that the level of COVID-19 transmission is increasing in the school setting beyond acceptable levels. ACS network leadership and school principals will monitor the number of positive cases reported and keep a record throughout the school year. Once a second case is reported outside the pod of the initial

case, high vigilance will be necessary during the span of five days. A monitored calendar will be kept that tracks cases, pods, grade levels, school, and days within reported cases. The data will be inputted to the calendar by the designated contact at each school and supervised by the school principal. ACS network leadership will review this calendar daily.