

SOLVAY SCHOOLS

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Dear Solvay Community,

Thank you for your continued diligence in making decisions to keep our school community as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The completion of the COVID-19 daily screener via Parent Square and keeping kids home if they have any symptoms has resulted in our district remaining one of the few in the area who has not yet experienced a potential in-district COVID-19 exposure.

We would like to continue the progress the district community has made with regards to working to minimize the spread of COVID-19. The number of COVID-19 cases is rising in Onondaga County. Additionally, the typical cold and flu season is here, which is coupled with fall and winter-like weather that keeps us indoors more. Thus, it is crucial that we become even more diligent in making decisions to minimize the COVID-19 exposure risk in our community.

Please refer to the [NYSDOH Pre-K to Gr 12 COVID-19 Toolkit](#) to understand when a student can and cannot come to school if he/she is experiencing symptoms or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. If you are keeping your child home due to COVID-19 related symptoms, it is critical that you do the following:

1. Contact the school nurse to notify her of the situation and the symptoms your child is exhibiting.
2. Contact your child's primary care physician to seek guidance.
3. Based on the diagnosis or guidance of the physician one of the following must happen in order for your child to return to school:
 - a. A doctor's note clearly indicating that the child's COVID-19 symptoms are a result of a non-COVID chronic or acute illness (ex. strep-throat); or
 - b. A negative COVID-19 test and the child being symptom-free for at least 24 hours.
4. If one of the situations outlined above in item #3 occurs, the doctor's note or negative COVID-19 results must be provided to the school nurse before the child can return to school. Please also let the school nurse know if your child is being COVID-19 tested and do not wait to notify the school until you have the results.
5. If the child tests positive for COVID-19, you will need to follow the guidance of the County Health Department and your child may not return to school until released from isolation by the County Health Department. You must also notify the school nurse of the result.

If your child is staying home for reasons that are not related to COVID-19 symptoms, please call the school's main office to indicate why the student is staying home or send a note indicating why the child was home upon his/her return (ex. an orthodontist appointment, overslept and missed the bus, etc.).

*KAREN HENRY, District Clerk
JOSEPH BARNELLO, Assistant Clerk*

*KRISTIN SUNSER-KING, President
KEVIN DWYER, Vice President*

*LENA ROSE ORLANDO, Member
STEPHEN P. ZALEWSKI, Member*

If your child needs a COVID-19 test, it is highly recommended you use the Onondaga County Regional testing site that has been set up for students and school employees at the Regional Market (this testing location was formerly located at NBT Stadium). You must make an appointment to get a test through the County's website (<https://covid19.ongov.net/appointments/>). While it may take you a day to get an appointment, the testing being done at this location is the most reliable of the testing methods available and the test results are turned around quickly as all tests are being run by local laboratories. Some of the local urgent cares are sending tests far away for analysis and this has increased the wait time for results.

Please notify the school nurse if your child gets a COVID-19 test, as the district is required to track various COVID-19-related data on a daily basis per the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Please refer to [this FAQ](#) to learn more about this daily reporting. It is important to understand that any student or staff member that gets a COVID-19 test and the result, if it is positive, is required to be reported, regardless if the person was in any of the district's buildings. A positive result reported on the dashboard does not necessarily mean there was an exposure in the district. Students who are fully remote that receive a positive test, also need to be reported. The district will communicate clearly and swiftly if we are notified of any potential for a district-based COVID-19 exposure.

If you have further questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's building principal or nurse.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Tinklepaugh". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Jay Tinklepaugh
Superintendent of Schools

JT/ac