



PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jay Lebrun

Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Hornet Parents:

I've prepared this letter to outline where we are, and where we might be headed.

We are now in middle of our 6th week of hybrid instruction. This was accomplished through the hard work of faculty and staff, and the discipline and adherence to safety protocols by students and parents. I didn't think we'd get here. You should be very proud of this shared accomplishment.

Many challenges lie ahead. One district in our County has already dealt with active COVID case(s), and some districts in our neighboring Counties are currently closed and operating via remote instruction.

The changing weather and onset of the typical flu season will surely strain districts' ability to continue to provide any form of in-person instruction. Though we would prefer to be operating in a fully in-person mode of delivery, we're pleased that we've established a functioning hybrid model, and we wish to sustain these in-person student-teacher contacts for as long as possible. So-doing will require that we redouble our commitment to best hygiene practices, and based upon emerging guidance from State and local health departments, will also involve some changing protocols for student exclusion from and return to school.

Beginning Thursday, October 15th, the following protocols will be introduced:

- As always, symptomatic students will be excluded from school. Henceforth, all household members of symptomatic students will also be excluded, starting on the third day of the original student's removal, unless a confirmed negative COVID test is received.
- Students or staff who are excluded from in-person participation in school will be advised to immediately seek a COVID test, and to quarantine/isolate while awaiting the result of that test. While access to testing in our region is expanding, insufficient access to rapid testing clearly remains. In general, test results are currently taking between 1-4 days to be received. Local Superintendents have conveyed the need for broad rapid test access in our region to both public health personnel and elected officials. These parties clearly understand the importance of additional rapid testing capacity, as directives from State-level authorities require more student/staff exclusion from school.

MISSION

Our mission is to educate each student of the Plattsburgh City School District by creating challenging, supportive, and interactive learning that advances intellectual, physical, social, and cultural development.

- Students, siblings, and staff who are excluded from in-person school attendance may return only once symptoms are resolving and with a negative COVID test and note from their primary care provider. Or, families may present a detailed letter their primary care provider indicating an alternate diagnosis. To be clear, absent an alternate diagnosis from a care provider, students/staff who are excluded from in-person school will need to secure a negative test, have resolving symptoms, and have a note from their healthcare provider before returning.

More generally, the trend of increasing COVID cases in our county makes it ever-more important to follow hygiene best-practices, and for students and staff to stay home if they are experiencing any COVID symptom(s). Our school nursing staff will re-direct symptomatic individuals home, but by the time this mechanism is activated, the spread of the virus within our schools and our community may have already occurred. While we fully acknowledge the inconvenience of keeping symptomatic students home on day(s) when they were scheduled for in-person instruction, limiting exposure is critical to ensuring that our buildings stay open. Unfortunately, this is a community burden, and accepting personal inconveniences is a necessary sacrifice in protecting one another and in sustaining our hybrid mode of instructional delivery for as long as possible. Finally, parents can greatly assist School Nurses by informing them first thing in the morning when their child is symptomatic... regardless of whether the student is scheduled for in-person or remote study that day.

Until an effective vaccine is broadly available, school closure and remote instruction remains a possibility (perhaps even a probability) -- but the measures outlined above will surely better delay that eventuality.

With ongoing thanks,



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Superintendent of Schools

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PCSD School Nurses Need Your Help...

1. Does your child currently have (or has had since their last in person school day) one or more of these new or worsening symptoms?
 - A temperature greater than or equal to 100.0
 - Feeling feverish or has chills
 - Cough
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Fatigue/Feeling of tiredness
 - Sore Throat
 - Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
 - Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea
 - Muscle pain or body aches
 - Headache
 - Nasal Congestion/runny nose

If your child has any one of these symptoms, keep them home, and call the building school nurse.

If after 48 hours the School Nurse does not receive a copy of a Negative COVID test result that student and all of their siblings/household members in the district must also remain home from school.

All illnesses must be called in to the school nurse. All other student absences must be called in to the building attendance secretary.

Please make sure your emergency contact numbers are up-to-date. For any student sent home during the school day please pick them up in a timely manner. The student should continue to engage in any remote learning opportunities while home from school.

2. Call your Health Care Provider immediately and let them know you will need a COVID test that day. Ask them for an order for the test. If you go to the drive up site for testing on 213 Connecticut Rd., the results will return much faster if you have an order from your provider.
3. To return to school you will need:
 - A negative COVID test result
 - A note from your health care provider stating you may return to school.
 - They must have improving symptoms and be fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. .

Once we receive the above items, all siblings and any other household members who attend or work in the Plattsburgh City School District can return to school/work.

This effort will help us to keep our schools open! Thank you, from the PCSD School Nurses

NYSDOH COVID-19 In-Person Decision Making Flowchart for Student Attendance

Can My Child Go To School Today?

In the past 10 days, has your child been tested for the virus that causes COVID-19, also known as SARS-CoV-2?

YES

Was the test result positive OR are you still waiting for the result?

YES

Your child cannot go to school today.
They must stay in isolation (at home and away from others) until the test results are back and are **negative** **OR** if positive, the local health department has released your child from isolation.

NO

In the last 14 days, has your child:

- Traveled internationally to a CDC level 2 or 3 COVID-19 related travel health notice country; or
- Traveled to a state or territory on the NYS Travel Advisory List; or
- Been designated a contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 by a local health department?

YES

Your child cannot go to school today.
They must stay at home until your local health department releases your child from quarantine, at least 14 days.
A negative diagnostic COVID-19 test does not change the 14-day quarantine requirement.

NO

Does your child currently have (or has had in the last 10 days) one or more of these new or worsening symptoms?

- A temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° F (37.8° C)
- Feel feverish or have chills
- Cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue/feeling of tiredness
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headaches
- Nasal congestion/runny nose

YES

Your child cannot go to school today.
Your child should be assessed by their pediatric healthcare provider (HCP). Call your child's HCP before going to the office or clinic to tell them about your child's COVID-19 symptoms. If your child does not have a HCP, call your local health department.

NO

Your child **CAN** go to school today.
Make sure they wear a face covering or face mask, practice social distancing, and wash their hands!

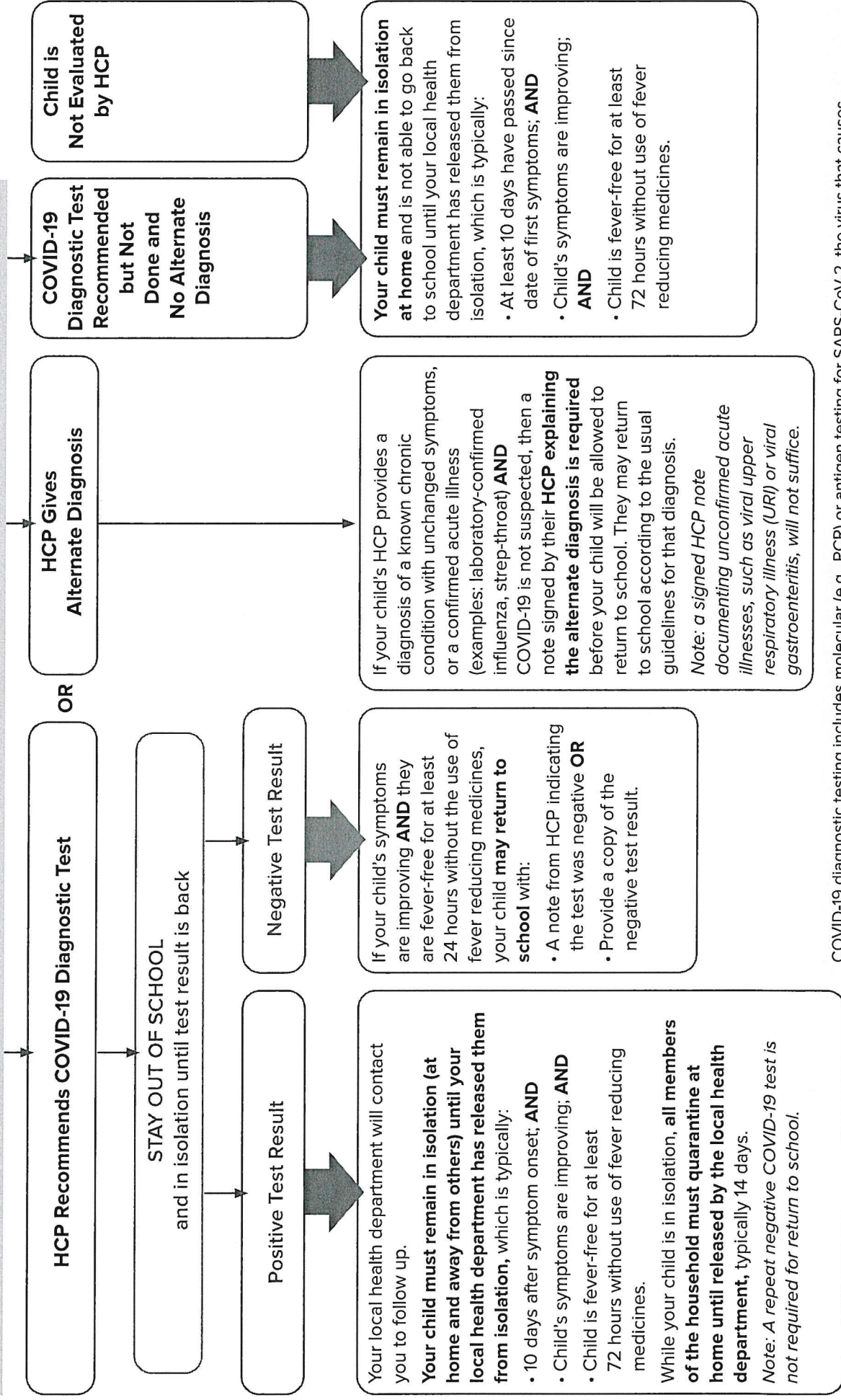
Report absences, symptoms, and positive COVID-19 test results to your child's school.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

- Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
- Prolonged fever
- Is too sick to drink fluids
- Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
- Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
- Racing heart or chest pain
- Decreased urine output
- Lethargy, irritability, or confusion

My child has COVID-19 symptoms. When can they go back to school?

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (HCP) EVALUATION FOR COVID-19 (can be in-person or by video/telephone as determined by HCP)



COVID-19 diagnostic testing includes molecular (e.g., PCR) or antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Diagnostic testing may be performed with a nasopharyngeal swab, nasal swab, or saliva sample, as ordered by the health care provider and per laboratory specifications. At times, a negative antigen test will need to be followed up with a confirmatory molecular test. Serology (antibody testing) cannot be used to rule in or out acute COVID-19.