



COVID 19 TESTING

All 13 Dutchess County School Districts along with Dutchess BOCES have worked with the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) to discuss local schools and county wide protocols related to the Health and Safety of our Districts. In our local WCSD Plan for Testing/Screening & Contact Tracing Plan, it is discussed in detail the daily measures that need to be taken prior to coming into school.

For purposes of this document, As per the guidelines set forth from the New York State Department of Health:

Testing The Responsible Party's testing protocol and procedures. The plan needs to include where the testing will take place and who will be providing the testing and what circumstances the testing will occur, and describe how the district will work with local departments of health.

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health has created COVID-19 Testing Procedure for Dutchess County Schools

Besides providing you with link of the COVID 19 Testing procedures, below is a *Cut and Paste* of the actual document for your convenience:

Background

COVID-19 remains a serious public health threat to the residents of Dutchess County, NY. Recently, the Governor of New York State has approved that both public and private K-12 schools will be able to open for the upcoming school year and was given guidance documents to develop plans to safely re-open with many COVID-19 mitigations. One of those mitigations is to have a plan for COVID-19 testing for individuals in a school setting. Information about testing in Dutchess County is described below.

Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19 may appear 2-14 days after exposure and include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. For a complete list of symptoms visit: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

Types of COVID-19 tests

There are two different types of tests – diagnostic tests and antibody tests.

- A diagnostic test can show if you have an active coronavirus infection and should take steps to quarantine or isolate yourself from others. Currently there are two types of diagnostic tests which detect the virus – molecular tests, such as RT-PCR tests, that detect the virus’s genetic material, and antigen tests, commonly used as a POC or “Point of Care” test. that detect specific proteins on the surface of the virus. Saliva tests are also becoming available and offers a rapid response option.
- An antibody test looks for antibodies that are made by your immune system in response to a threat, such as a specific virus. Antibodies can help fight infections. Antibodies can take several days or weeks to develop after you have an infection and may stay in your blood for several weeks or more after recovery. Because of this, antibody tests should not be used to diagnose an active coronavirus infection. At this time researchers do not know if the presence of antibodies means that you are immune to the coronavirus in the future.

How to be Tested for COVID-19

1. Contact your primary care provider to receive a prescription to visiting a testing site; or
2. Contact a testing site to schedule an appointment.

Dutchess County Plan to Support Testing for Schools

Dutchess County has embarked on a four-prong approach to support the testing needs of local schools as part of their re-opening process. The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral Health (DBCH) seeks to act as a resource to local school districts by defining and outlining testing programs and creating a plan for ensure the testing demands of the school community can be met in an effective manner. DBCH is not a direct care provider and does not directly provide COVID-19 testing to residents.

1. Testing Site Resource Guide

Dutchess County maintains an active list of all available testing sites located throughout the county. The most up to date list of providers offering testing and the specific criteria for testing at each site is and will be maintained on Dutchess County’s website at dutchessny.gov/coronavirustesting.

Thanks to established relationships with testing sites, Dutchess County is able to provide detailed test site information including test site locations, methods of contacting each site, hours of operation, methods of testing, and types of tests available. The county is updating our resource guide to

include information regarding cost and insurance coverage, age restrictions, and average test result turnaround time.

Local testing sites offering diagnostic and/or antibody testing include:

- CareMount Medical Group
- Emergency One Urgent Care
- MidHudson Regional Hospital
- Nuvance Health
- Pulse-MD Urgent Care
- Rite Aid Pharmacy

Residents are directed to review and understand the full list of requirements for each site BEFORE visiting.

2. **Preferred Student and Staff Testing**

Dutchess has established a preferred client relationship with Pulse MD Urgent Care to offer rapid testing for students and school staff with preliminary results in approximately 15 minutes. Pulse MD will offer a separate virtual scheduling que for school nurses to directly schedule visits for testing. These virtual scheduling portals will be established for each interested school district. For individuals without insurance coverage, who meet income eligibility criteria may be able to receive these services at a reduced cost.

Rapid antigen tests can provide a positive result within 15 minutes confirming a positive case and allowing for DBCH to partner with schools on rapid response contact tracing to control potential spread. This type of rapid test is known to provide false negative results, therefore traditional swab tests are used to confirm all negative rapid test results. The traditional swab test result is used to confirm a negative result or overturn the initial rapid test result. Individual who receive a negative rapid test result are required to continue isolating until this diagnosis is confirmed by a traditional swab test.

At this time, there is limited availability for rapid test kits, however testing capacity and efficacy is expected to improve in the coming months as Pulse MD expands onsite rapid tests through improved technology.

Updated by the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health as of August 20, 2020.

WCSD LOCAL TESTING AND SCREENING PROCESS

The Wappingers CSD will implement mandatory daily health screenings, including temperature checks (which will occur at home by parents and staff members and is reported on the daily health screening report, which will be completed, at home, prior to entering school buildings), of students, faculty, staff, and other community member's to include contractors, vendors, and guests to the school buildings, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is a living document where the New York State Department of Health along with the guidance of the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health will help the WCSD maintain all necessary screening procedures up to date.

The Wappingers CSD will use the web based platform "Ez Scrn" and send a daily "health screening/questionnaire" to all parents/students, faculty and staff members. Students/faculty and staff members will have access to the questionnaire the evening before their scheduled day of work and are required to complete prior to reporting to work, each and every day. The daily health screening will contain questions related to the following:

1. Knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has
 - a. tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or
 - b. who has or had symptoms, of COVID-19; which may appear 2-14 days after exposure
 - i. Fever or chills
 - ii. Cough
 - iii. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - iv. Fatigue
 - v. Muscle or body aches
 - vi. Headache
 - vii. New loss of taste or smell
 - viii. Sore throat
 - ix. Congestion or runny nose
 - x. Nausea or vomiting
 - xi. Diarrhea
2. Has your child tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
3. Has your child you experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, in the past 14 days; and/or

4. Has your child traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days.

An answer of YES to any of the above statements and said individual must stay home or if they should arrive at school, upon arrival at school, will be separated from the general population and escorted to a designated safe area in the school building. This area will serve as a waiting room for those individuals being sent home, consistent with the provisions set forth in this guidance document. All staff members escorting said individuals and/or supervising waiting room, will have the appropriate PPE in order to ensure their continued health and safety. Also all individuals responding YES to any or all identified questions will be referred to their health care provider for further evaluation and COVID-19 testing.

In addition, all individuals must have their temperature checked each day – ideally, at home, prior to departing for and entering school and/or any school facility. If an individual presents a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, the individual must be denied entry into the facility, or sent directly to a dedicated area prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home.

(The Wappingers CSD is prohibited from keeping records of students, faculty, staff, and visitor health data (e.g., the specific temperature data of an individual), but we are permitted to maintain records that confirm individuals were screened and the result of such screening (e.g., pass/fail, cleared/not cleared).