

Health and Safety Updated Protocols

7/12/2022

The updated Health and Safety Plan is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19 and updated recommendations from NJDOH and CDC.

SEARCH Day Program will continue to implement many of the layered prevention strategies as part of daily operations. The multilayered approach not only protect against COVID-19 spread but can also help prevent the spread of other infectious diseases, such that can also help prevent the spread of other infectious diseases, such as influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and norovirus, thus supporting a healthy learning environment for all.

SEARCH will continue to implement the following COVID-19 prevention and control strategies:

- Encourage students and staff to stay [up to date](#) with vaccinations.
- Maintain school policies for reporting positive test results, illness, and household exposures.
- Enforce [isolation](#) and exclusion for those who are symptomatic or have tested positive for COVID-19 and other illnesses.
- Provide information to parents, students, and staff on prevention strategies including testing and masking following illness and exposure.
- Support mask use by students and staff who choose to mask.
- Implement control measures recommended by LHDs in response to clusters of cases (including increases in respiratory illness) and confirmed outbreaks.
- Comply with the vaccination and testing requirements for staff required by Executive Order Nos. [253](#) and [264](#) (2021).
- Continue to report outbreaks and suspected outbreaks immediately to LHDs.
- Follow NJDOH reporting requirements for reportable diseases.

Health Screening:

Parents should screen students daily for symptoms of COVID-19. Parents will not be required to complete a screener. Students' temperatures will not be taken daily. If your child exhibits symptoms, please keep them home and speak to your physician. Please get in touch with our school nurse to report the absence from school and any symptoms your child has. One of the most effective ways of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our schools is to do our best to keep it from entering.

- *Covid symptoms* are: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory or taste disorder, fever, chills, shivers, myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose.

Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while in school will not be permitted to remain. We ask that if a student needs to be picked up due to illness, it is done as quickly as possible. To return to school, students with COVID-19 symptoms will need to be tested and show a negative test. If a student is waiting for test results, the student should not be present in school until the results have been received.

Depending on supplies and individual cases, the school nurse may offer the rapid covid test.

Masks

Masks are optional indoors and outdoors.

- During an active outbreak – during an outbreak or a general increase in cases based on [COVID-19 Community Levels](#), the school will consult with Monmouth Health Department as to whether short-term universal masking or masking in affected classrooms should be required to control the outbreak/increase in cases.
- After returning from isolation or quarantine – students and staff who return to school during days 6-10 of isolation or quarantine should be required to mask.
- When illness occurs in school – students or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in school should wear a mask until they leave the premises.
- Masks are required on the school vehicle.

Physical distancing

SEARCH Day Program will continue to implement physical distance to the greatest extent possible.

Exclusion

Parents should not send students to school when sick. As per guidelines from NJDOH students with the following symptoms will be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

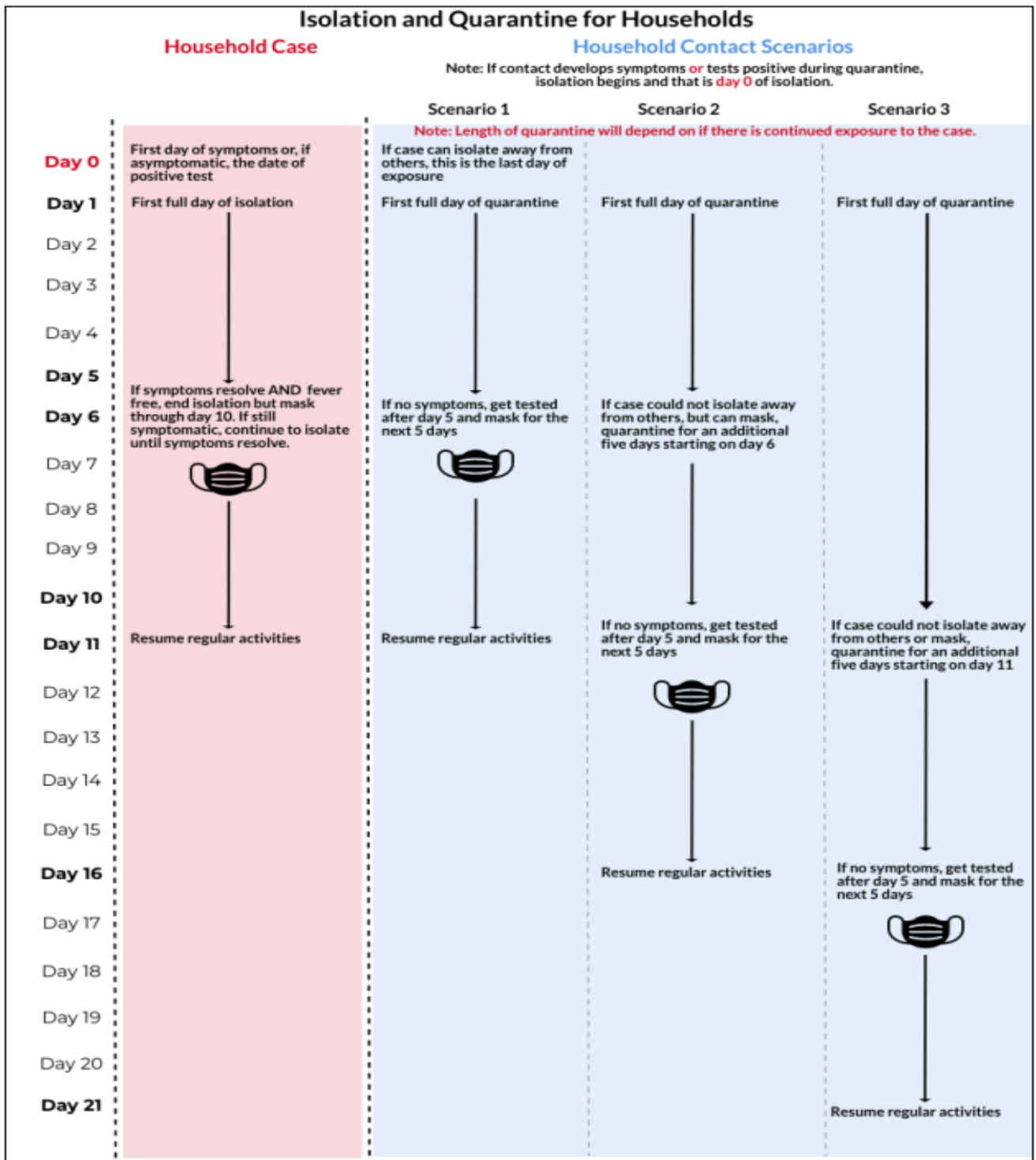
- At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; **OR**
- At least **one** of the following symptoms: new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms, or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

COVID-19 exclusion (isolation) criteria for persons who test positive for COVID-19:

- Stay home for at least 5 full days. Day 0 is the day of the positive viral test.
- If they have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving after 5 days and are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours, they can resume school on day 6 and wear a mask at school for days 6-10 (during the times when mask-wearing is not possible, for example eating, adequate distance should be used)
- Masks should be worn in school on days 6-10.
- Students who are unable or unwilling to mask should stay home for the full 10 days OR return with a negative Covid test. The PCR, antigen, or at-home tests are accepted with a picture sent to the nurse.

See below quarantine for household contacts



COVID-19 exclusion (isolation) criteria for persons who have COVID-19 compatible symptoms:

Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms who have not been tested and do not have an alternative diagnosis from their healthcare provider should:

- Stay home for at least 5 full days after the onset of symptoms
- If they have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving after 5 days and are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours, they can resume school on day 6 with a note from the doctor

Contact Tracing

The nurse will contact anyone that is a known close contact to a positive COVID-19 case in school.

Close contact with a positive individual (less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in 24 hours):

- Vaccinated individuals: Do not need to quarantine unless symptomatic.
- Unvaccinated individuals: Will need to quarantine for up to 5 days. If asymptomatic, they can return on day 6 with a negative covid test (rapid and PCR accepted) shown to the school nurse.
- Persons who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (positive viral test) do not need to quarantine unless symptomatic.
- In certain situations, it may be challenging to determine whether individuals have met this criterion, and an entire cohort, classroom, or another group may need to be considered exposed.
- The school nurse may implement a Test-To-Stay strategy to keep students at school.

Test-To-Stay (TTS):

[TTS](#) allows asymptomatic students who meet the criteria for quarantine to continue in-person learning as long as they test negative for COVID-19.

- Close contact asymptomatic students can participate in TTS to continue in school learning
- Parental consent must be obtained first
- The school nurse or parent at home will test the student during 5 days of quarantine.

SEARCH Day Program serves a medically complex pediatric population: Based on individual cases and the age of the students, the school nurse may use a 10-day exclusion period at all levels of community transmission.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy School Facilities:

SEARCH Day Program has implemented enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures using EPA-approved disinfectants and following CDC guidance. The custodial staff will clean and/or disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, faucet handles, and phones, at least daily. In addition, common and outdoor areas are cleaned daily.

Ventilation

We will continue to improve airflow to the greatest extent possible to increase outdoor air circulation, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants.

Ventilation filters have been routinely replaced. In buildings with recirculated air, the HVAC has a fresh air component.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Staff and students must wash and sanitize their hands frequently throughout the day. Hand sanitizer alcohol-based (at least 60% alcohol) will be available in every classroom and lunchroom. Handwashing/sanitizing must occur after using the restroom and before and after eating.

Visitors

Opportunities for parents to visit our school will be available. The [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) determines the decision to allow visitors to our school. Visitors will be permitted when the area is experiencing a low or moderate activity level. When the area is experiencing a high activity level, only school/district personnel and students will be permitted to enter the school building.

Testing

At all levels of community transmission, NJDOH recommends that schools identify rapid viral testing options in their community to test symptomatic individuals and asymptomatic individuals exposed to someone with COVID-19.

SEARCH Day Program will continue implementing diagnostic testing to facilitate rapid diagnosis and limit unnecessary school exclusion for students and staff. On April 21, 2021, SEARCH Day Program obtained Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) to satisfy NJDOH requirements for diagnostic testing. The point of contact (POC) person is health administrator Viktoriya Orman, MSN, ANP-BC: vorman@searchdayprogram.com or 732-531-0454 ext.109.

During the school year, SEARCH Day Program utilizes the AccessBio CareStart COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test to detect SARS-CoV-2 Antigen (RCHM-02071) with BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card, which evaluates symptomatic individuals or individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19. Also, Flowflex, Covid-19 Antigen Home Tests will continue utilized based on the supplies from NJDOH.

To satisfy EO #21-011 and EO #253, the School Nurse will continue to report weekly the Surveillance for Influenza and COVID-19 (SIC) Module in the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS). The information required to report is Absenteeism, COVID-19 Cases, Exclusion, Vaccination Coverage, and Screening/Testing Data.

SEARCH Day Program will continue to work closely with Rover Lab vendor by NJDOH to implement Covid-19 PCR testing for unvaccinated individuals once or twice weekly, depending on CDC's [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) for the community.

References

NJDOH <https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

NJDOH COVID Information for Schools

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_schools.shtml

New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub <https://covid19.nj.gov/>