



COVID-19 Testing

In consultation with the Broome County Health Department and County Contact Tracers information regarding Covid-19, positive tests will be shared with the appropriate individuals via email and phone calls. The district, in cooperation with the county health department, will preserve the privacy rights of students and staff.

If large-scale testing needs to be conducted at the school, the district administration will work with the following providers:

UHS Walk-In - Vestal
Binghamton General Hospital
Binghamton Event Center Parking Lot
Guthrie Vestal

Broome County also has several walk-in providers. The County Health Department strongly urges the use of a virtual walk-in facility if you feel you have COVID-19 symptoms.

UHS: <https://www.nyuhs.org/>

Lourdes:

<https://healthcare.ascension.org/Locations/New-York/NYBIN/Binghamton-Our-Ladyof-Lourdes-Memorial-Hospital>

Endwell Family Physicians: <https://endwellfamily.com/>

Guthrie: <https://guthrie.org/>

Managing of Ill Person

The district requires students, faculty, or staff members who develop COVID-19 symptoms during the school day to report to the nurse's office. If several students are waiting to see the school nurse, students must wait at least 6 feet apart. The district has designated areas to separate individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 from others until they can go home or to a healthcare facility, depending on the severity of illness. One area will be used to treat injuries, provide medications or nursing treatments, and the other area will be used for assessing and caring for ill students and staff. Both areas will be supervised by an adult and have easy access to a bathroom and sink with hand hygiene supplies.

Benjamin Franklin Elementary, Room 115

Calvin Coolidge Elementary, Room 125

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, Room 07

Horace Mann Elementary School, Room 100

MacArthur Elementary School, Room D 103

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School, Room 117

Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, Room 115

East Middle School, Room 214 A

West Middle School, Room 254

Binghamton High School, First Floor Fitness Room

Columbus, Room 311

Robinson Street, Room 2nd Floor Office A

PPE requirements for school health office staff caring for sick individuals includes both standard and transmission-based precautions. In areas with moderate to substantial community transmission, eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield) should be added. When caring for a suspect or confirmed individual with COVID-19, gloves, a gown, eye protection, and a fit-tested N-95 respirator will be used, if available. If an N-95 respirator is not available, a surgical face mask and face shield will be used.

School health office cleaning will occur after each use of cots, bathrooms, and health office equipment (e.g., blood pressure cuffs, otoscopes, stethoscopes). Health office equipment will be cleaned following the manufacturer's directions. Disposable items will be used as much as possible (e.g., disposable pillow protectors, disposable thermometers, disposable thermometer sheaths or probes, disposable otoscope specula).

Students Suspecting of Possibly Having COVID-19

Students suspected of having COVID-19 awaiting transport home by the parent/guardian will be isolated in a room or area separate from others, with a supervising adult present utilizing appropriate PPE. Multiple students suspected of COVID-19 may be in this isolation room if they can be separated by at least six feet.

If there is a confirmed and or suspected case of COVID-19, the Binghamton City School District will take the following steps:

- Closing off areas used by a sick person and not using these areas until after cleaning and disinfection has occurred;

- Opening outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area;
- Waiting at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfection. If waiting 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible;
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, lockers, and common areas;
- Once the area has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected it can be reopened for use;
- Individuals without close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 can return to the area and resume school activities immediately after cleaning and disinfection;
- Binghamton City School District refers to the DOH’s “Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure” for information on “close and proximate” contacts;
- If more than seven days have passed since the person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary, but routine cleaning and disinfection should continue; and
- If a separate room is not available, Binghamton City School District will ensure that the person with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 keeps at least a 6-foot distance between ill students. If they cannot be isolated in a separate room from others, the district will provide a facemask (e.g., cloth or surgical mask) to the ill student if they can tolerate wearing it and do not have difficulty breathing.

Transportation of Ill Persons/Protocols

To prevent the possible transmission of the virus to others while waiting for transportation home, the following steps will be taken:

- Students should be escorted from the isolation area to the parent/guardian;
- The parent/guardian will be instructed to call their healthcare provider, or if they do not have a healthcare provider, to follow up with a local clinic or urgent care center;
- Symptomatic students or staff members will follow CDC’s “Stay Home When You Are Sick” guidance unless otherwise directed by a healthcare provider or the local department of health;
- If the student or staff member has emergency warning signs, such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to arouse, bluish lips or face, Binghamton City School District will call 911 and notify the operator that the person may have COVID-19;
- Binghamton City School District staff is aware of the symptoms of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) associated with COVID-19, which is a serious condition associated with COVID-19 in children and youth. Employees should notify the parent/guardian if their child shows any of the following symptoms and recommend the child be referred for immediate follow up with a healthcare provider:
 - Fever
 - Abdominal pain
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Neck pain

- Rash
- Bloodshot eyes
- Feeling extra tired

Staff will call for emergency transport (911) in accordance with district policies. For example, Binghamton City School District officials will call for emergency transport for any student showing any of these warning signs of MIS-C or other concerning signs:

- Trouble breathing
- Pain or pressure in the chest that does not go away
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face
- Severe abdominal pain

If a student or staff member reports having tested positive for COVID-19, school administrators or his/her designee should notify the local county health department to determine what steps are needed for the school community.

Return to School After Illness

Binghamton City School District follows CDC guidance for allowing a student or staff member to return to school after exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. If a person is not diagnosed by a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) with COVID-19, they can return to school:

- Once there is no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours;
- If they have been diagnosed with another condition and have a healthcare provider's written note stating they are clear to return to school;
- If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until:
 - It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms;
 - It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine); and
 - It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

If a person is being tested for COVID-19 symptoms for concern about exposure, they are not to return to any school building until they get their test result.