

## Contact Tracing

---

Northern Rivers will notify state and county health departments immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, employees, and visitors.

Northern Rivers has developed and maintains a plan to trace all contacts of exposed individuals in accordance with protocols, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program (<http://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-contact-tracing>), which will assist the county health departments with tracing the transmission of COVID-19.

Northern Rivers will assist with contact tracing by:

- Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members
- Maintaining up-to-date student and staff schedules
- Maintaining a log of all visitors that includes date, time, and location of the visit
- Assisting county health departments in tracing all contacts of individuals in accordance with the protocol, training and tools provided through the Contact Tracing Program

If we discover a COVID-19 case in any of our school buildings, Northern Rivers will take the following steps in consultation with the appropriate county health department:

- Evacuate and close off affected areas of the building
- Disinfect affected areas of the building in accordance with state and local guidelines

We will maintain confidentiality as required by federal and state laws and regulations. The appropriate county health department will conduct contact tracing and advise Northern Rivers' school administration of the notification process to the impacted school or building. School staff are not to determine exclusionary practices without guidance and direction from the county health department and the senior director of Nursing.

### Symptoms of COVID-19 at School

Northern Rivers requires staff or students with a temperature (100°F or higher), signs of illness, and/or a positive response to the questionnaire to be sent directly to a dedicated isolation area where students are supervised, prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home.

We will escort students from the isolation area to their parent/guardian. We will ask students and employees to visit their healthcare provider, and we will refer them to a list of resources for COVID-19 testing, which we will strongly encourage.

## **Return to School after Illness**

In order to return to school, students with a diagnosis of a highly contagious disease must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be tested and receive negative results **OR**
- Have a doctor's note **OR**
- Have been fever-free without antipyretic (fever-reducing) medication for 72 hours and/or 10 days from onset of symptoms and at least 3 days since symptoms including coughing and shortness of breath have improved.

We will refer to the New York State Department of Health's Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure ([http://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/doh\\_covid19\\_publicprivateemployerreturntowork\\_053120.pdf](http://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/doh_covid19_publicprivateemployerreturntowork_053120.pdf)) regarding protocols and policies for staff seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, or after the faculty or staff member had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19.

Northern Rivers requires that individuals exposed to the COVID-19 virus complete a 14-day quarantine and be asymptomatic before returning to work in person.