

3 – Containment (updated 9/7/21)

Town of Webb UFSD will implement protocols and procedures for how to respond to positive or presumed-positive cases of COVID-19, as well as preventative practices.

School Health Offices

Town of Webb UFSD has developed processes and protocols for safely caring for a student, faculty, or staff member if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day. These processes and protocols follow New York State Department of Health mandates.

Isolation

Town of Webb UFSD has developed a protocol that will require any Students or Staff with a temperature, or signs of illness to be sent directly to a pre-determined, supervised isolation area, attached to but separate from the school's health office. Staff with a temperature, or with signs of illness will be sent directly home.

This isolation area will be monitored by school staff while it is occupied by Students. That Staff will be outfitted with appropriate PPE (surgical mask, face shield, gown, gloves, etc.). Students in the isolation area will have access to rest rooms.

Parent Pick-Up

Students should be escorted from isolation area to their Parent/Guardian. The Parent or Guardian be instructed to call their health care provider, or if they do not have a health care provider, to follow up with a local clinic or urgent care center.

Infected/Exposed Individuals

Town of Webb UFSD has a protocol, that complies with Centers for Disease Control guidance, for the return to school/work for Students and Staff following an illness, or diagnosis of confirmed case of COVID-19, and following a quarantine due to contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Students who are being sent home will be immediately separated from other students and supervised, in the isolation area, until their parent/legal guardian or emergency contact can retrieve them from school.

The duration of any quarantine, as well as who will be placed in quarantine, will be determined by the local health department and the district will follow the local health department's guidance.

Students, teachers, and staff who exhibit new or worsening COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and cannot return until:

- They receive a negative COVID test,
- Remain home for ten (10) days

Students, teachers, and staff who have COVID-19 symptoms that are improving and are fever free for at least 48 hours (without fever reducing medicine) may return with a negative COVID-19 test result or a note from a healthcare provider stating that they tested negative for COVID-19.

Students, teachers, and staff can return without a negative COVID-19 test if:

- They provide a note from a licensed medical professional stating that the symptoms are because of a pre-existing condition, like migraines, allergies, etc., and the symptoms aren't getting worse, or
- They provide a specific alternative diagnosis (strep-throat, influenza, etc.) from a licensed medical professional.

If a Student/Staff is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test they should not be at school and should stay at home until:

- It has been at least ten (10) days since the individual first had symptoms
- It has been at least two (2) days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)
- It has been at least two days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath
- They have completed any ordered quarantine or isolation period.

Prior to being sent home, any ill Students or Staff will be assessed by the School Nurse. Staff will be instructed to follow-up with their healthcare provider. Town of Webb UFSD has the capacity to provide diagnostic COVID-19 testing on an as needed basis.

Town of Webb UFSD will work with any student on quarantine to minimize learning loss during that time.

Vaccination

Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated (14 days post final vaccination injection) individuals (students or staff) DO NOT need to quarantine and may remain in the school building if exposed to COVID-19, but must monitor for symptom development and wear a mask at all times (except when eating); TOWUFSD should be notified if the fully vaccinated student or staff develops any COVID-19 symptoms and that Town of Webb UFSD has the capacity to provide diagnostic testing following exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Previous COVID-19 Infection

Asymptomatic individuals who have recovered from a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection during the previous three (3) months DO NOT need to quarantine and may remain in the school building if exposed to COVID-19, but must monitor for symptom development and wear a mask at all times (except when eating); TOWUFSD should be notified if the individual develops any COVID-19 symptoms and that Town of Webb UFSD has the capacity to provide diagnostic testing following exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Hygiene/Cleaning and Disinfection

Town of Webb UFSD has developed a protocol to instruct Staff and Students in appropriate hand and respiratory hygiene. This protocol will be reinforced with signage in various, conspicuous locations in its buildings.

Students and staff will be instructed on how to practice good hand hygiene to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The district will plan time in the school day schedule to allow for hand hygiene, especially: at the start of school, after using the restroom, before/after eating, after recess, at the start and end of PE class, before leaving school, etc.). Hand hygiene includes:

- Traditional hand washing (with soap and warm water, lathering for a minimum of 20 seconds)
- Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers (60% alcohol or greater) when soap and water are not available, and hands are not visibly dirty
- Providing hand sanitizer throughout common areas (e.g., entrances, cafeteria), near high touch surfaces, and use touch free dispensers when able
- Signage will be placed near hand sanitizer indicating visibly soiled hands should be washed with soap and water
- Students or staff who are unable to use alcohol-based hand sanitizers for health reasons will be permitted to wash their hands with soap and water

Additionally, since COVID-19 virus spreads from person to person in droplets produced by coughs and sneezes, Students and Staff will be instructed on how to practice good respiratory hygiene to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. This includes:

- Instructing Students and Staff cover their mouths or noses with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and dispose of the tissue appropriately
- Providing a supply of tissues and trash cans nearby should be available in each room

If no tissue is available, Students and Staff will be instructed to use the inside of the elbow (or shirtsleeve) to cover the mouth or nose and to always perform hand hygiene after sneezing, coughing and handling dirty tissues or other soiled material.

Town of Webb UFSD will ensure adherence to cleaning and disinfection recommendations from the CDC. Most surfaces and objects in school buildings will just need normal routine cleaning. Frequently touched surfaces and objects like light switches and doorknobs, will need to be regularly cleaned once a day to further reduce the risk of germs on surfaces and objects.

If someone in the school building has tested positive for COVID-19 and been in the building within the last 24 hours, any spaces they were in will be cleaned and disinfected to further reduce the risk of germs in those spaces.

Students will not be present when disinfectants are in use and will not participate in cleaning and/or disinfection activities.

Contact Tracing

In the case of an individual testing positive for COVID-19, Town of Webb UFSD has developed plans to support the local health department in tracing contacts of that individual related to their time in a school building or during school-sponsored events/activities. These plans include:

- Definitions of close and proximate contacts from the local department of health
- Notifying the local health department to determine what steps are needed for the school community.
- Forwarding all appropriate information to the Public Health Department to help determine the extent of potential quarantines.
- Return to school/work protocols

Due to HIPPA protections and NYS Education Department guidelines, the district will not necessarily notify the community of a positive COVID-19 test in the district, though individuals will be alerted if they have been identified as coming into close or proximate contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Any announcement or notification will come from the local Public Health Department.

Communication

Town of Webb UFSD will communicate the importance of adhering to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, as well as applicable protocols to Students, Parents, Legal Guardians of Students, Staff, and potential visitors.

This information will be shared in variety of ways, including letters sent home, emails, social media posts, and through the use of the district's ParentSquare messenger system. Town of Webb UFSD has also developed a COVID-19 Information website (https://www.towschool.org/c_o_v_i_d-19) the topics covered in the communications and on the website will include:

- Face Covering and Social Distancing requirements
- Trainings the district will be providing related to COVID-19
- Other updated guidance documents

Specific messages related to potential changes to protocols/requirements will be sent as needed and added to the district's website.

Signage has been placed at the entrances to each of the district's buildings regarding COVID-19 and face covering requirements. The district has also placed posters in various, conspicuous locations in its buildings regarding; social distancing requirements, hand hygiene, face coverings, and COVID-19 symptoms.