Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES
Comparison Chart
Nov. 23, 2021

Changes to Quarantine Procedure in Herkimer County Moving Forward

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have endorsed both the "test out of precautionary quarantine" option and a "test to stay" option.

Herkimer County Public Health and school officials are putting the "test out of precautionary quarantine" option into place starting, Wednesday, Dec. 1. The "test to stay" option was deemed to be unfeasible for many reasons including there aren't enough rapid tests in our schools to be able to test every student and staff member every day after an exposure.

The chart below compares the two options:

	"Test out of precautionary quarantine"	"Test to stay"	Reason Herkimer County health and school officials prefer "test out of precautionary quarantine"
What is required and how it is applied:	<u>Asymptomatic</u> people can be tested after the fifth day of quarantine, and if they receive a negative lab-confirmed test, the quarantine can be lifted after day seven, <u>if still asymptomatic</u>.	Must remain asymptomatic and test every day for seven days and get a negative result before going to class each day, but quarantine is in effect outside of academic hours.	"Test out of precautionary quarantine" works better for students for many reasons including that it could shorten quarantines overall – which lets kids get back to school and other activities sooner.
Type of precautionary quarantine:	ANY exposure, in school, in public, at home, to someone with COVID-19.	Only when a student is exposed to someone with COVID-19 in a classroom.	"Test out of precautionary quarantine" works with more types of exposures to someone with COVID-19, such as on a school bus, during sports, extracurricular activities, or family or social gatherings.
Number of tests required per person:	One test (after the fifth day of quarantine) – and it	Seven tests per person (one per day for the first	Right now, there are only about 800 rapid tests available in the schools across Herkimer County and about

	can be done by any New York state-approved testing lab (not just school).	seven days of quarantine) at school before they can come into the building each day.	356 students or staff are on precautionary quarantine. If all of them were tested every day for seven days, the supply of tests would run out in about two days. By using only one test per person, schools can keep up, as more tests are delivered.
Quarantine ending:	Can end after the seventh day.	Remains in effect for the full 10 days except for during school hours (with no extracurricular or social activities allowed).	The "test out of precautionary quarantine" option can get asymptomatic students and staff completely out of quarantine after seven days, instead of only during academic hours for the "test to stay" option.
Where testing occurs:	Anywhere someone can normally get tested for COVID-19; including possibly at school.	Testing conducted in school before they can come into the building.	Testing in school means students would have to get to school each day (on the bus for some students) and then could be sent home if they test positive. This might result in additional precautionary quarantines for other students who ride those buses.
Staff required:	If any tests are conducted by school staff, it would be done by one school nurse once per person.	Every daily test for seven days would be performed by school nurses for each student, and someone would have to supervise the students while they wait 15-minutes for the results.	The number of school staff available for in-school testing on a daily basis is not available.

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