COVID-19 PANDEMIC RELATED GUIDELINES
FOR TUPS' SCHOOL NURSES

DAILY HOME SCREENING FOR STUDENTS

The CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools. Parents or caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day using a Screening Tool such as the CDC/Apple COVID-19 tool prior to sending their child to school https://www.apple.com/covid19/

Students with symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school in-person.

A note from a healthcare provider to attend school note does not preclude the school nurse from sending student home if new or worsening symptoms occur.

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES TO DETERMINE WHEN TO SEND HOME, ISOLATE, AND RETURN TO SCHOOL

Section 1
Assess for symptoms of COVID-19:

Fever or chills

Cough – New, uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough documented by healthcare provider, a change in their cough from baseline)

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue (not related to insufficient rest)

Muscle or body aches (not related to injury or overuse)

Headache (new onset-severe)

New loss of taste or smell

Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

If a student is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

Trouble breathing

Persistent pain or pressure in the chest

New confusion

Inability to wake or stay awake

Bluish lips or face

Section 2
Assess for exposure to persons with COVID-19

Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19

- Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases as described in the Community Mitigation Framework
- Live in areas of high community transmission

A. If the answer is YES to any question in Section 1 but NO to any questions in Section 2

1. The student will be sent home.

2. The student would be excused from school in accordance with existing school illness management policy (until symptom-free for 72 hours without fever reducing medications). or negative COVID-19 test results.

B. If the answer is YES to any question in Section 1 and YES to any question in Section 2

1. The student will be placed in an isolation area and sent home. Instruct the parent/guardian to follow up with their child's healthcare provider for guidance, isolate the student from others, monitor their health, and follow CDC guidelines.

2. Notify TUPS District Contact Tracer. Parent/Guardian should be advised that the Union Health Department may contact the family for contact tracing.

3. Students who have received a negative test result should be allowed to return to school once their symptoms have otherwise improved in accordance with existing school illness management policies.

4. Students diagnosed with COVID-19 or who answer YES to any question in Section 1 and YES to any question in Section 2 without negative test results (i.e., not tested for example, household member has tested positive and student shows symptoms so healthcare provider presumes positive diagnosis) should be permitted to return to school in line with current CDC recommendations:

10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**

24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**

COVID-19 symptoms have resolved (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

5. School Nurse should make parent aware that school nurse must clear student to return to school based on above criteria.

6. CDC guidelines state a negative test or doctor's note should **not** be required for return. Questions regarding return to school should be jointly decided in consultation with parents or caregivers, school personnel, the Union Health Department and the student's healthcare provider.

ISOLATION PROTOCOLS: For students/staff who develop symptoms of COVID-19 while at school.

School staff (e.g., workers, teacher aides, school health staff) who interact with a student/staff member who becomes ill while at school should use
Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions.
If student/staff member requires transport to the hospital alert EMS that the student/staff member may have symptoms of COVID-19.

Be mindful of appropriate safeguards to ensure that students and staff are isolated in a non-threatening manner, within the line of sight of adults, and for very short periods of time.

After the student/staff member is placed in an isolation area, school staff who work in the isolation area should follow CDC's Considerations for Cleaning and Disinfecting your Building or Facility.

STUDENTS WITH RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES/NEBULIZER TREATMENTS

Students with acute respiratory illness should not attend school. During this COVID-19 pandemic, asthma treatments using inhalers with spacers are preferred over nebulizer treatments whenever possible. Based on limited data, use of asthma inhalers (with or without spacers or face masks) is not considered an aerosol-generating procedure.

Due to limited availability of data, it is uncertain whether aerosols generated by nebulizer treatments are potentially infectious therefore, ***nebulizer treatments will not be administered in school***. School nurses should notify parents and the healthcare provider who ordered the nebulizer treatment.

ISOLATION AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) STANDARDS IN THE HEALTH OFFICE

Appropriate PPE must be utilized in conjunction with universal precautions and proper hand hygiene.

School Nurse will follow CDC PPE guidelines for caring for patients with suspected COVID-19. These guidelines do not substitute nursing judgment and acknowledges that courses of action may be modified on a case-by-case basis.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/A_FS_HCP_COVID19_PPE.pdf

IMMUNIZATIONS (no change to current procedure)

Promote up-to-date vaccinations, including the flu vaccine, and 6th grade required Tdap and Meningococcal in accordance with New Jersey State law.

SCREENINGS

Scoliosis, height, weight, blood pressure, vision, and hearing.

(no change to current procedure)

Screenings should be performed following the schedule outlined in the NJDOE regulations as there has been no change to screening requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing and mask requirements should be maintained. Preference should be given to students identified with or complaining of difficulty in any of the areas which require screening and with screening requirements as outlined in special services evaluation regulations. Supervisor will be notified if nurse is unable to maintain screening requirements.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS

In the absence of a school nurse, a certified Athletic Trainer may cover the school nurse's office.

In the event an occurrence is outside of the athletic trainer's scope of practice the athletic trainer would consult with a school nurse and or the student's parent.

ADDITIONAL STAFF TRAININGS

1. Update Communicable Disease Training to include COVID-19 specific info. (if training is not provided by not provided by GCN).

2. When, Not and How to send students to Nurse's Office.

Additional References:

Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations (July23, 2020)
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html

Global Initiative for Asthma (March 25, 2020)
https://ginasthma.org/covid-19-gina-answers-to-frequently-asked-questions-on-asthma-management/

K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs FAQs for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents
See: IF CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA USE "BREATHING TREATMENTS" OR PEAK FLOW METERS, DO SCHOOLS NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT AEROSOLIZING THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES COVID-19?
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/FAQ-schools-child-care.pdf

When to Quarantine after being exposed to someone with COVID-19-CDC
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html

When to end isolation after having or likely having Covid-19
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html#:~:text=Anyone%20who%20has%20had%20close,has%20recovered%20and