

### **Pathfinder School Reopening Task Force:**

- COVID-19 Safety Coordinator: Maura Iorio, Sr. Director of Education
- COVID-19 Resource Person: Jamie Benada, Registered Nurse
- Nichole Carney, Education Department Administrative Assistant

With approvals from:

- Paul Landers, Chief Executive Officer
- Caprice Eckert, COVID Committee Chairperson and CFO

These plans have been made in collaboration with families, community members, and other school stakeholders. All plans below are subject to change. Any updates or modifications made will be communicated promptly to all school community members.

### **Health and Safety**

- Our top priority is to remain open for in-person special education services across our three classrooms (Pre-Academic 6:1:2; Life Skills 8:1:2; Pre-Vocational 12:1:2)
- Social Distancing: 3 to 6 feet of space will be maintained between students at all times; a minimum of 6 feet of space will be maintained between students during meal times.
- PPE: disposable and/or cloth masks will be made available to all staff; it will be mandatory for staff and visitors to wear masks; students may be exempted from wearing a mask if medically unable (parent to supply documentation from the child's healthcare provider)
- Reopening plans have been made in consultation with local public school districts, students' families, Pathfinder Village's Committee of Senior Leadership, the Pathfinder Village Nursing Department, and with the support of our local department of health
- All reopening protocols and procedures will be sent home to students and parents; In addition, this document will be posted to Pathfinder School's website and will be available for review. All employees will be in-serviced on reopening protocols and procedures; Signage will be put up on the front door and visibly throughout the school to inform visitors of these policies and to remind everyone of proper hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Should changes need to be made to the reopening plans, including but not limited to closing the school due to an uptick in local COVID-19 cases, students, families, and employees will be notified via phone. Pathfinder School will utilize phone, email, and social media to keep families and employees informed throughout the school year.
- Parents will receive a screening tool to utilize at home to monitor their children for symptoms, and to help determine when their children should stay home.
- The School Nurse (or trained staff in the case that the School Nurse is unavailable) will monitor students' temperatures upon arrival at school; Should a student's temperature be 100° F or higher, the student will be taken to the Nurse's Office; Staff accompanying that student will be provided full PPE and the child's parent/guardian will be contacted immediately to come and pick their child up with instructions to follow up with their child's healthcare provider.

- Should a student become ill during the school day, the student will be sent to the School Nurse to be assessed.
- Visitors, guests, contractors, and vendors will be kept to a minimum; those required to visit will be thoroughly screened upon arrival by being asked designated questions regarding travel, symptoms of illness, and contact with people who have tested positive for COVID-19. Upon successful completion of screening questions, visitors will be asked to take their own temperatures to ensure they are below 100° F, wear a mask, and sanitize their hands before exiting the Main Office. Visitors' access to the school building will be restricted to ensure they do not have any unnecessary contact with staff and students beyond their reason for visiting.
- Social distancing will be encouraged as much as possible. Students will not comingle with students outside of their own classroom, with the exception of pre-approved therapy sessions; Students' desks will be 3 to 6 feet apart; Staff will wear acceptable PPE at all times as it will be necessary for staff to be in close proximity to students for support and assistance. Students who are physically and medically able to wear masks may do so if they choose; staff will ensure these students receive mask breaks throughout the day.
- Special education teachers will be responsible for providing direct instruction to students in the areas of personal and respiratory hygiene. Parents/guardians who wish their children to participate in mask tolerance training may request further information from Pathfinder School's Behavior Analyst.
- Pathfinder School will provide all staff, visitors, and students who so choose, with disposable masks. In addition, staff will be provided with options for gloves, face shields, goggles, and gowns as needed. PPE has been purchased and kept in supply through the Pathfinder Village Organization through trusted vendors.
- Should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19 at Pathfinder School, the local health department will be contacted immediately for further guidance and instructions regarding closing, cleaning, and notifying families, employees, and visitors. For this reason, an accurate visitor log will be kept, as well as a daily record of student and employee attendance.
- **Please see Appendix A for Screening and Return to School Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure policies**
- The school will be cleaned and disinfected daily using safe and approved disinfecting products in accordance with CDC guidelines; Items used by students (such as physical equipment, toys, mats, surfaces, etc.) will be disinfected after each use throughout the day using only products that have been deemed safe for use in a school setting.
- Pathfinder School will conduct the required school safety drills while utilizing social distancing and PPE.
- The Senior Director of Education will act as the Pathfinder School COVID-19 safety coordinator to ensure continuous compliance with all aspects of the school's reopening plan, as well as any phased-in reopening activities necessary to allow for operational issues to be resolved before activities return to normal or "new normal" levels.
- The School Nurse (RN) will act as the Pathfinder School COVID-19 resource person; responsibilities include, but are not limited to: being the main contact upon identification of positive COVID-19 cases and subsequent communications regarding these cases; ensuring there are adequate supplies of PPE; consulting on development and revision of Pathfinder School's Reopening Plan.

<b>Facilities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ General Health and Safety Assurances<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Please see above Health and Safety Assurances</li><li>○ Classrooms will have adequate square footage per student (guidelines recommend 50 square feet of space per student).</li><li>○ All building spaces have access to adequate ventilation with options to open windows for increased air flow; a new HVAC system was installed over the summer which is designed to increase the air quality and to pump in fresh air from outside.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Transportation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Pathfinder School Day Students are transported daily by their home school district; parents have been notified that they must contact their child’s home school district to learn more about the specific guidelines and protocols that will be in place when their child is being transported to and from Pathfinder School.</li><li>○ Pathfinder School Residential Students live on campus; they walk to and from School with staff support.</li><li>○ Pathfinder School has several DOT certified vehicles for use during the school day to transport students to and from community-based learning activities, job exploration opportunities, and other field trip experiences. Most of these activities continue to be on hold. Parents will be contacted directly if their child is slated to attend one of these trips throughout the school year.</li></ul>
<b>Social Emotional Well-Being</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Pathfinder School does not have a certified school counselor</li><li>○ Pathfinder School’s Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) will monitor the social/emotional well-being of students in conjunction with teachers, therapists, and the school nurse.</li><li>○ Pathfinder School’s BCBA will provide employees with training on how to talk with and support students regarding the COVID-19 public health emergency, including the development of coping skills and resiliency skills.</li><li>○ Additional resources will be made available to students and families upon request, in collaboration with students’ home school districts.</li></ul>
<b>School Schedules</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Student drop-off will be between 8:00am and 8:30am; student pick-up will be between 2:00pm and 2:30pm.</li><li>○ Students receiving Related Services at the Group level will be grouped with students from their own classroom as much as possible.</li><li>○ A detailed record of student schedules will be maintained should this information be needed for contact tracing.</li></ul>

### **Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism**

- Student and employee attendance is documented daily
- Students' attendance is reported to their home school districts on a monthly basis
- Should a student or employee be absent for an unknown reason, the School Nurse, Administrative Assistant, or Sr. Director of Education will contact the family, or employee, to determine if the absence is due to illness.
- Should it be determined or reported that a student or employee is absent due to illness, Pathfinder School Screening and Return to School protocols [Appendix A] will be implemented; The COVID-19 Resource Person (School Nurse) and/or the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator (Senior Director of Education) will follow-up with families and employees daily to ensure all protocols are being followed, and to determine when it is safe for the student/employee to return to school.
- If there is a risk of exposure to COVID-19, the local department of health will be contacted immediately for guidance.
- Should Pathfinder School need to close and implement Remote Learning, virtual engagement and active participation will be expected each school day. This will be documented through:
  - Attendance during scheduled virtual web-based sessions with teachers, therapists, or other designated school personnel.
  - Submission of completed electronic assignments via Google Classroom
  - Phone or email contact with a designated school personnel
  - If Pathfinder School is unable to verify student engagement and active participation in virtual learning through any of these means, or if parents have not notified the school that their child is unable to participate for the day due to illness or another legal reason, students may be documented as being illegally absent

### **Technology and Connectivity**

- Parents will be surveyed to determine the technology and internet available in their home
- Should students be participating in virtual/remote learning, every effort will be made to ensure students have the tools and equipment needed in collaboration with students' home school district
- Teachers and therapists will provide instruction in an alternative format (to be mailed home, or delivered by designated school personnel) that does not require technology or internet access upon request from the parent

<b>Staffing</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Professional staff certification requirements will remain unchanged.</li><li>○ All staff will be thoroughly trained on COVID-19 protocols and the use of PPE.</li><li>○ We will minimize the sharing of staff between classrooms to lower points of contact.</li></ul>

**APPENDIX A**

Screening for COVID-19 and Return to School following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure  
Home Screening:

Students must stay home from school for any of the following:

- 1) Shows signs of infectious illness consistent with COVID-19, such as fever of 100°F or higher, chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, stomachache, fatigue, headache, muscle or body aches, etc.
- 2) Close or proximate contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days (\*please follow up with school immediately, as the Department of Health will determine if a student must be excluded from school or not following a COVID-19 exposure)
- 3) Travel out of the country or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days.

Parents must immediately notify the school whenever any of the above criteria are met.

In order to return to school following **illness**:

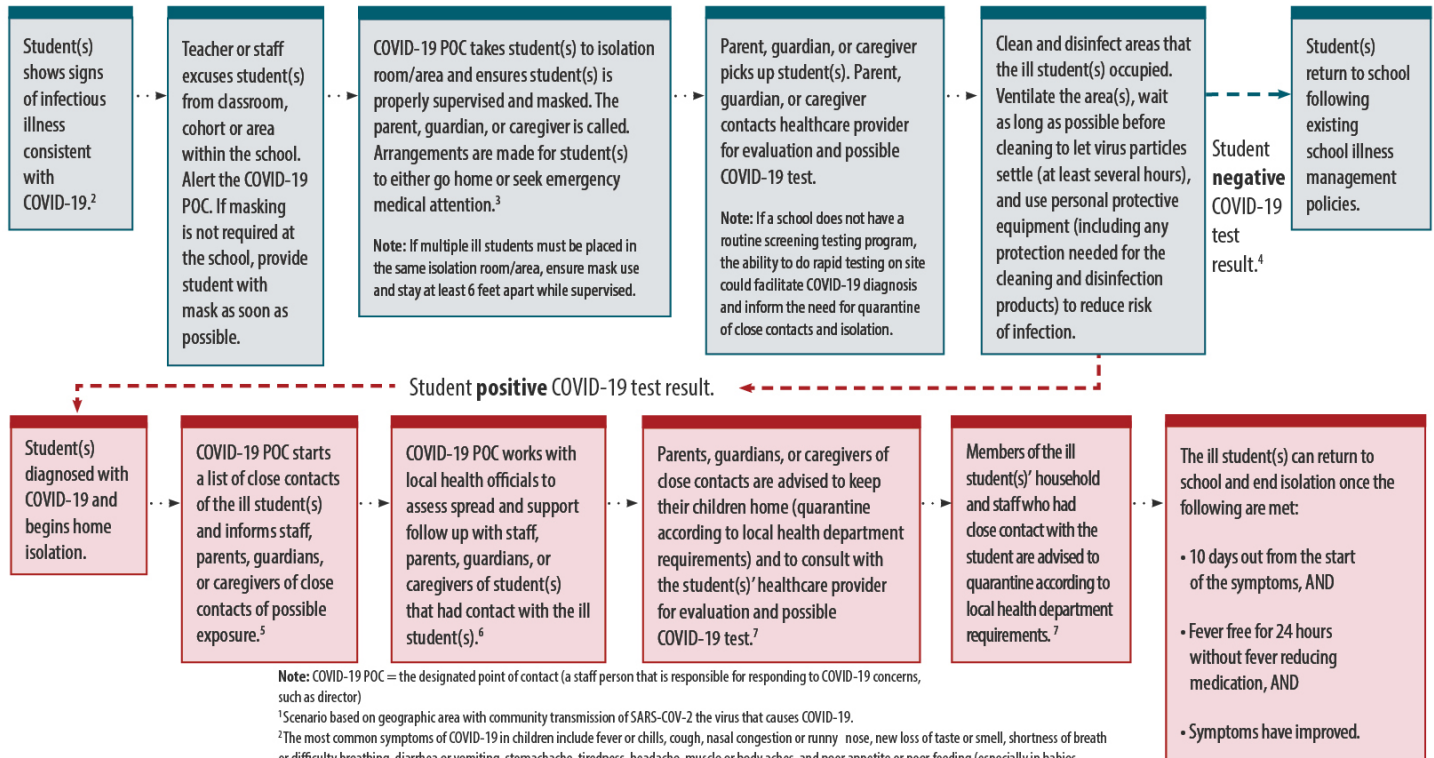
- Improving symptoms AND a doctor’s note clearing the student to return to school OR
- Improving symptoms AND a negative COVID test

In-School Monitoring:

The New York State Department of Health Guidelines requires that, if the student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the student must be separated, and parents will be contacted to pick up their child immediately and given instructions to contact their health care provider for follow-up and evaluation.

Return to School After Illness or Exposure to COVID-19: Any student who screens positive for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure must be evaluated by a health care provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) and obtain documentation from the provider stating they are clear to return to school.

## WHAT TO DO IF A STUDENT BECOMES SICK OR REPORTS A NEW COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS AT SCHOOL<sup>1</sup>



**Note:** COVID-19 POC = the designated point of contact (a staff person that is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns, such as director)

<sup>1</sup>Scenario based on geographic area with community transmission of SARS-COV-2 the virus that causes COVID-19.

<sup>2</sup>The most common symptoms of COVID-19 in children include fever or chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, and poor appetite or poor feeding (especially in babies under 1 year old).

<sup>3</sup>Schools that do not have a universal mask requirement could require masking by students, teachers, and staff if they are experiencing onset of upper respiratory infection symptoms at school while waiting to be picked up or leave the school.

<sup>4</sup>With no known close contact.

<sup>5</sup>Close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask. See exception in the definition for the exclusion of students in the K-12 indoor classroom: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

<sup>6</sup>To the extent allowable by applicable laws regarding privacy.

<sup>7</sup>CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine, but should get tested after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)