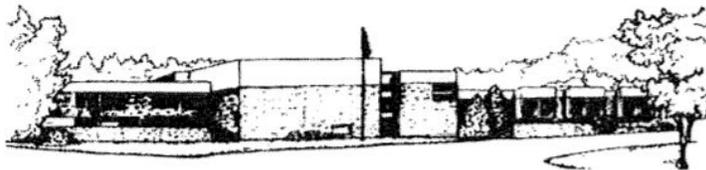


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AuSable Valley Central School District

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Sept. 25, 2020

Dear Patriot Family,

As we are at the end of the third week of the new school year, and we want to express our sincere appreciation for your support and assistance in helping our school return to a hybrid model schedule. We know that these are unusual times and extra effort is required by everyone to ensure the safest possible learning environment.

Today, I want to confirm the current NYS Department of Health interpretation of the guidance regarding when our students or staff exhibit COVID-19 symptoms as listed below.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fever 100° or greater | <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle or body aches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chills | <input type="checkbox"/> Headache |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New cough | <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congested or runny nose | <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell | <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or vomiting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue | <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea |

John Kanoza, Director of Public Health at the Clinton County Health Department said, “The Clinton County Health Department has been in very close communications with both Champlain Valley Educational Services (CVES) and individual school districts to discuss specific questions relating to the latest (August 2020) requirements set forth by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). We recognize the current NYSDOH requirements create a burden for families, schools, and local medical providers but as they are the most current recommendations from the NYSDOH for COVID-19, they must be followed.”

Schools must follow New York State Department of Health and Local Health Department guidelines for returning to school or work. This returning to learning protocol must include at minimum documentation from a health care provider evaluation, negative COVID-19 testing, and symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation.

This protocol may extend, based on the direction of a medical provider, to family members of symptomatic students and/or employees.

IF A COVID TEST IS POSITIVE or Healthcare Provider diagnoses a student or employee with COVID-19, the student or employee may return to school when:

- ✓ at least 10 days have passed since symptoms have first appeared;
- ✓ **AND** at least three days have passed since fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- ✓ **AND** improvement in respiratory symptoms have occurred;
- ✓ **AND with a Release from Isolation notice from the Clinton or Essex County Health Department**

IF A COVID TEST IS NEGATIVE, a student or employee may return to school if they have:

- ✓ Proof of negative COVID-19 test;
- ✓ **AND** documentation of an evaluation by a healthcare provider (healthcare provider note clearing the student to return to school);
- ✓ **AND** once there is no fever for 24 hours (100 or above) without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours (symptom resolution)

This guidance is designed to ensure that the safest possible learning environment exists in our schools. We thank you in advance for your support of this guidance and assistance in helping the AuSable Valley Central School District implement these regulations. If you have any questions, please reach out to your school administrator or our school nurses who can confirm this information.

None of us can provide our high-quality educational services alone. We help each other, we look out for each other and we come together for our children and communities. I ask everyone involved with North Country schools to embrace the school spirit that we need to keep our students, families, and school staff healthy and our schools operating as close to normal as is possible under these challenging circumstances. Please follow your county's Department of Health guidelines to protect our students and staff, their families, and the entire community. We thank you for continuing to make such a positive difference in our schools and communities. Thank you and let's all stay Patriot Strong!

Respectfully,



Paul D. Savage II,
Superintendent of Schools
AuSable Valley Central School District