

Screening and Testing

Health Screening and Temperature Checks

Niagara Charter School will implement mandatory health screenings, including temperature checks of students, faculty, staff, and where applicable, contractors, vendors, and visitors to identify any individuals who may have COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

Niagara Charter School has purchased and will distribute digital thermometers to each family household before the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Temperature checks should be conducted daily, ideally at home, prior to departing to school and before entering any school facility. If an individual presents a temperature of greater than 100.00F, the individual will be denied entry into the facility, or sent directly to the dedicated area prior to being picked up and sent home.

A daily screening questionnaire will be used for faculty and staff reporting to school. A student screening questionnaire will also be used for the parent/legal guardian to answer prior to sending the child to school. Parents/guardians will be consistently reminded that students may not attend school if they have had a temperature of greater than 100.00F at any time in the past 14 days, even if a fever-reducing medication was administered and the student no longer has a fever.

Screening questionnaires will determine if students, faculty, staff, and, where applicable, visitors, contractors, and vendors:

- knowingly been in close or proximity contact in the last 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19;
- tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
- has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0F, in the past 14 days; and/or
- has traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days.

Remote screening is strongly recommended, as Niagara Charter School families will receive a weekly robo-call reminder about COVID-19 screenings, as well as a daily email reminder to screen their child prior to school.

If on-site screenings are needed, they will be coordinated in a manner that prevent individuals from intermingling in close or proximate contact with each other prior to the completion of the screening. **Individuals will be provided with information on health care and testing resources, COVID-19 tests will NOT be administered at the school.**

No unscheduled visitors will be allowed on school grounds. All visitors will be required to complete a written screening questionnaire prior to gaining access to the school.

Please note that the quarantine of students, faculty, or staff may be required after international travel or travel within a certain state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19, pursuant to current CDC and DOH guidance, as well as Executive Order 205.

Positive Screen Protocols

Any individual who screens positive for COVID-19 exposure or symptoms, if screened at the school, will be immediately sent home with instructions to contact their health care provider for assessment and testing. **Individuals will be provided with information on health care and testing resources, COVID-19 tests will NOT be administered at the school.**

Students who are being sent home because of a positive screen (e.g., onset of COVID-19 symptoms) must be immediately separated from other students and supervised until their parent/legal guardian or emergency contact can retrieve them from school. Depending on the severity of illness, students may be sent to a healthcare facility.

Symptomatic students waiting to be picked up will remain under the visual supervision of a staff member who is physically distanced.

Niagara Charter School will immediately notify the state and local health department about the case if diagnostic test results reported back to the school are positive for COVID-19.

Individuals will be required to disclose if and when their responses to any of the screening questionnaire changes, such as they begin to experience symptoms, including during or outside school hours.

For individuals, particularly students, who screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms, they can return to the learning environment by providing, at a minimum, documentation from a health care provider, a negative COVID-19 test, and symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation.

In-Person Screening

Any person performing in-person screening activities will be appropriately protected from exposure to potentially infectious individuals entering the facilities. Screeners will be provided and use PPE, which includes an acceptable face covering or mask, and may also include gloves, a gown, and/or face shield.