

UNATEGO COVID-19 TESTING PROTOCOL

Testing – If and when a student presents signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), the individual should be sent home. The parent or guardian of the student should consult with their child's doctor if they should be tested for COVID-19. Staff members who report any symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary health care provider and discuss whether or not testing is appropriate. If a family does not have a doctor or the doctor is unavailable, individuals can call the Bassett Healthcare Triage Line: 607-547-5555. For a list of testing sites go to <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>.

When an individual with symptoms is tested for COVID-19, they are instructed to self-isolate by their healthcare provider until they receive their test result. If the test comes back negative, they are notified by their healthcare provider and no longer need to quarantine and may return to school or work after symptoms have resolved, unless the individual was placed into quarantine due to an exposure to a positive case. In this instance, the individual will complete the full quarantine period regardless of a negative test result. If the test comes back positive, they are notified by their healthcare provider and Otsego County Public Health will contact them for a case investigation. The individual will be issued an order for isolation. Otsego County Public Health will conduct daily follow up and release individual when appropriate.

Testing to return to work/school after being positive and being served isolation orders by the local health department is not practical due to the following: 1. you can still test positive after meeting criteria to being released from isolation because the test may be picking up dead virus 2. lengthy amount of time it is taking to receive test results 2-7 days 3. Most local testing sites are still prioritizing tests for people who are symptomatic, essential workers. 4. NYS Testing Sites will test anyone but are a greater travel distance and again there is a several day return on test results.

**A positive individual who is provided with isolation orders and put in isolation by Otsego County Public Health will receive a release letter from our office when they meet the criteria for release.