

RENSSELAER COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HEALTH



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Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of illness, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care, regardless of vaccination status. **Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others.** Rensselaer County and the School Districts of the County are partnering in a **PILOT PROGRAM** to limit the number of students quarantined due to an exposure on a bus. Studies have shown that COVID-19 transmission during transportation is significantly lower than community transmissions, as long as students and drivers are masked up and the bus windows are cracked for proper ventilation even during the winter months. The school when notified of a positive result will initiate contact tracing in collaboration with the Local County Health Department. The student in the seat with the positive case will be put on a 10-day quarantine from the last day the child was in the seat with the case. The students that are seated with the positive case will be interviewed by the contact tracer to determine on the vaccination status and if they are symptomatic. Those students that are vaccinated and have no symptoms would not be quarantined. Remember students who are siblings should be paired and seated together when feasible. The students who are in a 6-foot radius from the positive who would have been quarantined prior to the study will be put on a list by the school and tracked if they become positive and/or symptomatic. If any of these children become symptomatic and/or positive the situation will be re-assessed. The schools and the County will collaborate on a daily basis and if the study shows the number of cases related to school bus exposures are increasing the County and the school will decide if the protocol for bus exposures will need to go back to quarantining a 6-foot radius from the positive student. Please remember to remind your children to mask up and to make sure windows cracked to provide ventilation which may require your children to wear warmer clothing during the winter months. We appreciate your participation as parents in this partnership.