



TO: School Administrators, Health Care Physicians and Nurses

FROM: Saratoga County Public Health

DATE: September 24, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID Testing Information

Many schools have requested specific information and guidance on types of rapid test results that will be acceptable proof for a student or teacher who is symptomatic to return to school. Saratoga County Public Health would like you to know the following-

- A positive SARS CoV-2 Antigen is a reliable positive test and the individual must be isolated and treated accordingly. There is no need to repeat this test.
- A negative SARS CoV-2 Antigen rapid test is not reliable and would need to be verified by having another molecular PCR test done. A **symptomatic** person with a **negative "rapid antigen" may not return to school** until a confirmatory molecular PCR is completed and results have been received.

We would also like to share with you information that the NYS Department of Health has provided to laboratories and health care providers in a recent memo dated 9/23/2020. The instructions that they have been given will be beneficial in identifying positive COVID cases that are connected to a school, in a more timely manner.

The memo was addressed to all laboratories and it requires them to report results with detailed information on COVID-19 Tests. Here is a brief synopsis of what is required:

On September 9th a new Executive Order 202.61 was issued requiring all professionals (including ALL types of laboratories, physician office laboratory or point of care laboratory), authorized to order or administer any test for COVID-19 (including molecular, antigen and serologic tests; POL, POC or rapid) must provide the following information immediately (within 3 hours of receiving the results) to local public health departments:

- *Whether the patient attends school and, if so, where the patient attends school.*
- *The patient's place of employment, if applicable, including whether the patient works or volunteers in an elementary, secondary school, or post-secondary school, and the name of such school.*
- *The patient's local address, if different from permanent address.*

*In addition to reporting SARS-CoV-2 results, labs and healthcare providers who conduct **influenza testing** now need to report results immediately through the NYS system (ECLRS).*

We hope this information is helpful.