

Communicable Illness Management and Exclusion Policy
Addendum to the 2020-21 Student Handbook

In order to ensure the health, well-being, and safety of our residential community and to prevent the spread of highly-infectious illnesses, Northwood aims to temporarily exclude from the dormitory, classes, and co-curricular activities any student who has been diagnosed with a communicable illness or who has a temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit but has not been diagnosed with any of the specific communicable illnesses listed in this policy. Such students will be admitted to the Health Center for observation and evaluation by the Health Center staff. Students requiring admission longer than 24 hours will be sent home or to their local emergency contact until their temperature remains below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit without the use of fever-reducing medications, for 24-48 hours.

If a student lives within 300 miles of the school, the family or guardian is expected to take the student home in the event that they are excluded because of a communicable illness. If the student does not live within 300 miles of the school, the family must designate a local, off-site emergency contact to take a student off-campus in the event that he has been diagnosed with a communicable illness.

Communicable illnesses include, but are not limited to:

- Strep throat
- Influenza
- Norovirus or suspected norovirus
- Gastroenteritis
- Meningitis
- COVID-19

In the event of a communicable illness diagnosis not otherwise specified in this policy, the Health Center will follow the guidance of the school's Medical Director to determine when it is appropriate for the student to return to school.

In the event of a vaccine-preventable or other communicable illness incident, the School reserves the right to exclude any student who has a communicable illness or any student that has been exposed to an infected person or is susceptible to communicable illness because of non-immunization.

Any student who has been excluded from school for a communicable illness must get clearance from the Health Center prior to returning to school. Clearance may include, but is not limited to, a doctor's note clearing them for return to school, and/or documentation of appropriate treatment while at home, etc. The Health Center reserves the right to delay a student's return to campus based on the discretion of the school's Medical Director.

Return to Campus Policy for All Students:

Currently, New York State guidelines say that unnecessary travel both domestically and internationally should be avoided. For this reason, the Return to Campus Policy outlines requirements for returning to campus based on local, state and federal recommendations. The School's Return to Campus Policy, which has travel implications, should be followed by all members of the Northwood School community.

- Do not come to campus if you have any of the symptoms listed on your daily symptom check in the last five days.
- If you have traveled to any other country outside the US or to any of the states listed by the state of New York as being "high risk," you must quarantine at home for 14 days prior to returning to campus.

- International travel: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>
- Domestic travel: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>
- If you have an immediate family member who is living with you who is ill with any of the symptoms listed in your daily symptoms check, please do not return to campus until 5 days after your family member has recovered and you are symptom-free.
- Similarly, if you visit with family or friends who have recently traveled (within 14 days) from any of the countries listed in the CDC's Level 3 travel warning section, we ask that you also impose the 14-day waiting period prior to returning to campus/work. This 14-day waiting period must start the last day you were with these people.
- Any student either diagnosed with COVID-19 or who is suspected of having COVID-19 may not return to campus until they are fully recovered, receive clearance from their physician, AND receive approval from the Health Center.

Isolation Policy

The Northwood School Isolation Policy is implemented when a positive case of a highly-infectious communicable illness is identified by the Health Center either by a diagnostic test or clinical presentation.

Students who test positive for COVID are required to isolate until ALL of the following requirements are achieved (source: [CDC](#)):

- 3 days with no fever (and no antipyretic medication), AND
- Respiratory symptoms have improved, AND
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared, AND
- Given Health Center approval to return to campus

Per the school's communicable illness policy, students are required to be picked up within 24 hours of the parent/guardian or emergency contact being notified by the Health Center or School Life Office. Until the student's parent/guardian or emergency contact arrives to pick him up, or if the student is unable to go home, the student will be placed in one of the isolation areas the School has secured either on or off-campus. All rooms used for isolation will be physically separated from other residential student rooms. The areas where students are staying in isolation will be labeled externally with appropriate signage that states restricted access such as "Authorized Personnel Only" but will not state the reason for the restricted access due to privacy concerns. Depending on the level of care needed, students in need of isolation will be placed in either the health center or off-campus dormitory spaces the School has secured to isolate students.

Students in isolation resulting from a positive COVID-19 test will share bathrooms with each other but not with other students. Students in isolation will have access to a thermometer, sanitizing wipes, tissues, soap, hand sanitizer, and toiletries. A team of appropriately-trained faculty/staff will be on-call to assist students with their personal needs while in isolation. Counseling, educational and entertainment services, and/or spiritual and religious services will be available remotely to students in isolation.

Northwood will have at least two off-campus dormitories at nearby North County Community College reserved for the isolation and/or quarantine of students diagnosed with or potentially exposed to COVID-19. Students will not be placed in this location until they have been cleared by the school's Medical Director. Students will be housed in this area temporarily until their parents/guardian or emergency contact can pick them up or for the entire duration of their isolation period if they are unable to go home. There are four suites in each building with each suite containing four bedrooms and a shared bathroom/shower. Nursing staff will not provide care or monitoring of these students.

Nursing staff will, however, oversee the distribution of daily medications (controlled and non-controlled that are kept in the Health Center) and other OTC medications as needed after a phone consultation with the Health Center. The students in this location will be supervised by a dorm parent designated by the School Life Office who will live in the building but separate from the isolation area. The School Life Office will ultimately oversee this group of students. All meals will be delivered to the building and distributed by the dorm parent. Students will be required to do strict self-monitoring which will be enforced by the dorm parent supervising the group. A decision tree will be provided by the Health Center and approved by the Medical Director so that the person supervising the students will know when a student may need to move over to the Health Center infirmary for closer nursing supervision. Cleaning, custodial, and maintenance will be provided by the facilities department. All staff are required to wear appropriate PPE per CDC guidelines when cleaning or entering isolation spaces. Students in isolation will participate in their classes and keep up with their schoolwork with Northwood's remote learning program.

In the Health Center, there will be 5 beds (in private rooms with private restrooms) available for acutely symptomatic COVID-19 cases or students under investigation awaiting COVID-19 test results. Symptomatic students requiring nursing supervision will be officially admitted to the Health Center and remain in the Health Center until discharged out of isolation or to the off-campus COVID isolation building at North Country Community College if they have not completed the isolation requirement but are asymptomatic and no longer need nursing supervision. Students admitted to the Health Center will have 24/7 RN supervision. Meals will be delivered to the Health Center and distributed by the Health Center staff.

All students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to be cleared by the Health Center (using CDC [guidelines](#)) prior to returning to school.

Quarantine Policy

Students who have been determined to be a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case will be required to undergo a 14-day quarantine period. Students in quarantine must be picked up by a parent/guardian or emergency contact within 24 hours of notification that a quarantine has been imposed. Until the student is picked up or if it is determined that they will not be picked up, they will be housed at an off-campus dormitory at nearby North County Community College, specifically designated for students in quarantine. Students in quarantine will share bathrooms with each other but not with other students. Students in quarantine will be provided with a thermometer, sanitizing wipes, tissues, soap, hand sanitizer, and toiletries. The areas where students are staying in quarantine will be labeled externally with appropriate signage that states restricted access such as “Authorized Personnel Only” but will not state the reason for the restricted access due to privacy concerns. A team of appropriately-trained faculty/staff will be on-call to assist students with their personal needs while in quarantine. Counseling, educational, and entertainment services, and/or spiritual and religious services will be available remotely to students in quarantine. Students in quarantine will not be allowed to leave the building for any reason except in the case of an emergency.

All meals will be delivered to the quarantine space and distributed by the staff supervising the students in quarantine. Students will be required to do strict self-monitoring which will be enforced by the staff supervising the group of quarantined students. A decision tree will be provided by the Health Center so that the person supervising the students will know if/when a student may need to move over to the Health Center for assessment purposes or to be tested due to an emergence of symptoms. Cleaning, custodial, and maintenance will be provided by the facilities department. All staff are required to wear appropriate PPE per CDC guidelines when cleaning or entering quarantine spaces. Students in quarantine will participate in their classes and keep up with their schoolwork with Northwood’s remote learning program.

Students and staff serving a quarantine period must be cleared by the Health Center (using CDC [guidelines](#)) prior to returning to school/work.

Testing & Screening Policy

Pre-Arrival Screening

Prior to the physical return to campus, students will be required to provide additional information related to the pandemic as part of the Magnus electronic health records system. The Health Center has loaded these new forms into the Magnus system. Due to students arriving on campus at different times during the phased reopening plan, these forms may be required for different students at different times. These forms may include and are not be limited to the following:

- Health screening questionnaire/symptom check
- COVID-19 exposure form
- Recent virus test results (if available)

COVID-19 Testing, Re-Testing and Surveillance Testing

Northwood Schools COVID-19 testing program is a partnership with Adirondack Health and the Trudeau Institute, which will allow us to deliver reliable tests for COVID-19 infection for students at two different times—as they arrive on campus and again after 14 days.

Initial Test

Students will be tested for COVID-19 using a Viral PCR (polymerase chain reaction) Test when they arrive on campus. Students will be given a nasal swab that will be delivered to a regional lab for analysis. The results of the PCR Test will be returned in

3-7 days. While waiting for test results, day students must quarantine at home. Boarding students will be required to remain in their dormitory rooms until they receive a negative test result. *During this initial quarantine*, all boarding students must wear masks or cloth face-coverings at all times, except when alone in their dorm room, when eating, and when showering/grooming. Alternatively, students may choose to quarantine in a nearby hotel with their parents until test results are available.

Re-Testing

All students and staff will be retested 7-14 days after the initial test, but will not be required to quarantine while awaiting results unless they have been exposed to someone with a recent positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

Surveillance Testing

A system of routine surveillance testing may be established based on the prevalence of the virus at Northwood School, in the Lake Placid community, in the North Country region, and in the state of New York.

Testing for Symptomatic Students

The initial test, re-test, and surveillance tests are typically given to *asymptomatic* students as a defense against the spread of COVID-19. Students with symptoms of COVID-19 may be tested in the Health Center or at nearby healthcare facilities throughout the year. Students awaiting test results will be isolated according to the School's isolation policy until cleared to return to normal activities.

Payment for Testing

Currently, all US-based health insurance plans, including the plan offered to Northwood's international students, covers in full the cost of most COVID-19 tests. In the event that a COVID-19 test is required by the school or recommended by the school's medical director is not free or covered by the student's health insurance, all

charges associated with testing or medical care are the responsibility of the student or their family. We anticipate a COVID-19 test to cost approximately \$100.

Health Screenings

Daily health screenings will be facilitated through a free phone app that students will be required to install. All students and employees will be required to self-monitor for and report all symptoms related to COVID-19. These health screenings will help ensure that no one who is feeling ill or who has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 comes to campus or participates in campus activities. Daily temperature checks may be a part of these screenings.

Parents may be required to sign an additional consent to treat or release form which lists all COVID-19 related screening, testing, and monitoring that may take place throughout the pandemic.