

COVID-19/Coronavirus Exposure Protocol

Many people are asking about reported exposures of residents from other Counties who received medical treatment in Orange County, or from County residents. There are protocols in place once an exposure becomes known. Those protocols vary by based on where the exposure to the infection happened. Here is a summary:

When patients appear at a healthcare providers office and it is ascertained they have COVID-19, a “line list” is used. What that means is the medical office gives the County Health Department a list of all persons (patients/customers/healthcare providers) who came into contact or were near the person with COVID-19. The County Health Department then contacts each such person and advises of a potential exposure. Testing is then recommended to such person based on clinical criteria.

On the other hand, if the person with the infection was not at a doctor’s office, but was in, for example, a taxi, then public announcements would be made along the lines of “if you took a taxi in town X from this to that date and time, you need to be aware of a potential exposure and contact your healthcare provider.”

SCHOOL RELATED CONCERNS

Many parents are justifiably concerned about reports of COVID-19 in schools. While thankfully the evidence shows so far that children are less likely than others to be affected, the State Education Department has put out guidance for schools to use.

Here is the link to that guidance as of March 9, 2020:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/schoolhealth/schoolhealthservices/coronavirus/covid-19-p-12-school-guidance.pdf>