

Johnson City  
Central School District:  
**2021-22 School Opening Plan**



Updated November 2021



Dear Johnson City students, staff & community,

Given all the health and safety guidance and information that has been provided to us, including the most recent NYS State Education Department document, we are finalizing plans for the safe return of all students for the 2021-22 school year. We feel strongly that all students returning to full in-person learning is essential. Remote learning highlighted inequities in education across all grade levels. We must have our students present for in-person learning opportunities, but it is imperative that we do so safely.

As recommendations and guidance change, the district is prepared to adjust its plan accordingly. We consider this plan to be a living document that will need adjusting as we approach the first day of school and progress through the 2021-22 school year.

At Johnson City, all students will be returning to in-person learning five days a week. We are strongly recommending all eligible individuals to be vaccinated. This will help protect all students and staff, especially those who are unable to receive the vaccine at this time. We are closely monitoring community data and infection rates and are in close contact with local officials to receive the most up-to-date information related to the Covid-19 virus. We are once again partnering with the Broome County Health Department in performing our contract tracing protocols for any potential positive cases. This information will be communicated via our school district website and the JC app as was done in the past to staff and community.

The district is prepared to make any adjustments to its draft plan as guidance changes from state and local agencies. As has been our goal from the beginning, our plan is to provide each and every student the very best in-person education with safety priority #1.

Together, we will accomplish great things for each student of JC.

With thanks and gratitude,,

Eric Race



# Guidance Plan 2021-22

This document has been drafted following guidance as recommended from:

- NYS Education Department
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- NYS & Local Health Departments
- Broome County Officials

This draft is a living document and is subject to change without notice per state and local directives or changes in their recommendations.

# Vaccination

- The JCCSD encourages all eligible individuals to get vaccinated.
- This helps protect the unprotected children under the age of 12
- Public employees receive up to 4 hours paid leave per injection (includes booster)

The Broome County website has multiple sources of information for vaccines:

<https://gobroomecounty.com/hd/coronavirus/vaccine>



# Monitoring Community Transmission

- Community transmission rates will be monitored very closely.
- We will work in collaboration with the Broome County Department of Health.
- We will communicate all relative cases to our staff and community via the district website and the JC app.
- We will work diligently to support all students' educational opportunities.



# Wearing Masks - Staff

## Vaccinated

- Must wear masks inside the building and on school buses
- Optional outside
- May remove mask when alone or physically distanced in a classroom without students present

## Unvaccinated

- Must wear masks inside the building and on school buses
- Optional outside
  - Strongly recommended
- May remove mask when eating, drinking and for a mask break when needed without students present

*All visitors will be required to wear masks inside school buildings at all times (by appointment only)*



# Wearing Masks - Students

- On school buses
- Inside school buildings
  - at school events
  - during extracurricular activities
- Optional outside
  - following protocols for extracurricular activities
- May remove mask when eating, drinking and for a mask break when appropriate



# Physical Distancing

- Students will remain physically distanced wherever and whenever possible.
- The CDC & NYS guidance emphasizes that schools *should not* restrict student access to school or classes when physical distancing is not possible.





# Health questionnaire- staying home when sick- personal hygiene

- Daily health questionnaire required by all staff and strongly encouraged for all students
- Vaccinated staff (as indicated through voluntary question on health questionnaire) will complete questionnaire at the outset of the year; unvaccinated staff will be required to complete daily.
- Frequent hand washing with soap and warm water for a minimum of 20 seconds
- Hand sanitizer will be available
- Students and staff should be mindful of how they are feeling daily
- Students and school personnel should stay home when sick
- Students and staff need to know it's okay to stay home

**NYSQLL will be applied to mandated orders of isolation and quarantine for eligible staff.**



# Full In-Person Instruction

## Classroom Set-Up

- Teachers will make every attempt to support physical distancing when and where possible.
- Pairs, cooperative groups, and small group instruction are all allowed based on the instructional discretion of the teacher.

## Google Classroom

- All JC teachers will use Google Classroom on a daily basis for '21-'22 school year.



# In-Person Instruction: Mandatory Quarantine

## Elementary K-5

- A teacher will be assigned to manage virtual learning coordination for students.
- Google Classroom will be updated by classroom teachers.
- Classroom teachers will have time from 8:20 - 8:50 to connect with virtual students.

## Secondary 6-12

- A teaching assistant will be assigned to manage virtual learning coordination for students.
- Depending on the duration of absence, teachers may work with students from 2:45 - 4:45 as individuals or in small groups.
- Google Classroom will be updated by teachers.
- JCMS teachers will have time from 2:07 - 2:45 and JCHS teachers will have time from 7:30 - 7:55 to connect with virtual students.

# Student Access to Technology

## Elementary K-5

- All classrooms in K-5 will be equipped with a Chromebook or iPad cart.
- Students will be assigned a device for use on a daily basis.
- If the need arises, the district is prepared to allow K-5 students to take their device home in cases when extended virtual learning is necessary.

## Secondary 6-12

- Grades 6-12 will be full 1:1 with students being assigned a Chromebook that they will bring back and forth from home to school each day.

# Remote Learning- BT BOCES Academy

## BT BOCES Regional Virtual Learning Academy (Grades K-12)

- Available for students and their families with a medical necessity. A one year commitment to this program is required.
- A partnership with Edgenuity for course content is in place, and material will be taught by BT BOCES teachers and/or shared district staff.
- The academy will include a blended learning approach, utilizing synchronous and asynchronous instruction for all levels.
- Students and teachers will be supported by an online learning specialist who will serve as a mentor for them throughout their virtual learning experience.
- All students will have access to all required courses and electives as available.

Tuition per student: **\$6,500**

# Remote Learning- BT BOCES Academy

## District Responsibility

- Provide the Technology to each students
- Support the Technology
- Partnership to support engagement
- Provide related services as needed
- Provide the tuition cost
- Remote meals will be available at the JC schools for those enrolled students

## Next Steps

- Identify the students from each district that will be enrolled (August 27th)
- More detailed information will be provided by BOCES
- Family orientation is being planned by BOCES
- Joe Guccia will be the point of contact for the 2021-22 school year

# Facilities

- Improved and prolonged ventilation inside all buildings
- Cleaning and disinfecting all school buildings at least one time per day.
  - Cafeterias and nurses offices will receive additional cleaning and disinfecting
- Complete disinfection of any area when a positive case is identified



# Facilities Continued

- Disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer and masks available in all classrooms and central locations
- Hand dryers in student bathrooms continue to be off
- Drinking fountains will be turned off. Water bottle filler stations will be available





# Transportation

- Drivers, monitors and students will be masked on the bus at all times
- Cleaning and disinfecting school buses multiple times per day (in between each run)
- Increased ventilation of school buses by cracking windows and roof vents as long as it does not pose a safety risk to students
- Complete sanitizing and disinfecting of a school bus will take place if there is a confirmed Covid-19 case

# Contact Tracing

- To be performed immediately after confirmation of potential exposure
- In collaboration with the BC Department of Health
- Communication to families and staff of confirmed Covid-19 cases

## Close Contact: mandatory quarantine

- People who are fully vaccinated will not be quarantined - they will be required to wear a mask for 14 days and encouraged to get tested 3-5 days after exposure.
- K-12 indoor classrooms exempt from close contact definition if everyone is masked
- **Unvaccinated staff are not exempt**

# Covid-19 Symptoms and Testing Procedures

1. Students will report to the nurses office.
2. Students will be evaluated; placed in isolation (if necessary) and sent home.
3. Symptomatic testing performed by the Broome County Department of Health.
4. Contact Tracing (if necessary)

Asymptomatic testing for unvaccinated staff and students is being discussed in conjunction with local health professionals and the Broome County Department of Health.

# New school mandates

What we currently know: UPDATED SEPT. 8, 2021

Any student or staff member who begins to experience new or worsening symptoms of Covid-19 should not report to school and contact their health care provider.

If a student or staff member has new or worsening symptoms of Covid-19, regardless of vaccination status, they must do one of the following in order to return to school:

Provide a copy of a negative Covid test result, or:

Stay home from school for a minimum of 10 calendar days, If fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication, or:

Provide primary care doctor's note exempting symptoms based on medical history of a certain medical condition

\* The Broome County Health Dept. has provided the following information on where and how to receive a diagnostic test when you have new or worsening symptoms;

Call your primary care physician asap

Receive referral for an appointment from your primary care physician

Contact either Lourdes (Shippers Road, Vestal) or UHS Vestal (across from BU). These facilities have the rapid antigen test to provide the fastest and most accurate result.

The Broome County Health Dept. is working on providing a rapid test site for diagnostic testing at the BC Health Dept facility in Binghamton. They hope to have this facility up and running in the very near future.

For all positive cases, the Broome County Health Dept. will provide your release date and proof of release from isolation. You do not need a negative test result if you were tested positive and mandated to quarantine.

# Athletics & Extracurricular Activities

## Athletics

- Health & Safety protocols required to be submitted
- Follow same school day protocols and procedures
- Follow state and section guidelines
- Daily health screening protocols

## Music & Clubs

- Each group will submit and follow approved safety protocols
- Follow same school day protocols and procedures
- Daily health screening protocols

We recognize the value and importance athletics, music and extracurricular activities play in the role of education and in supporting students physical, mental and social health and wellness.

# School Breakfast

Elementary	Middle School	High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="108 380 566 532">● All students will eat breakfast in the classroom</li><li data-bbox="108 614 566 718">● Physically distanced whenever possible</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="701 380 1203 521">● 6th and 7th grade will eat in separate cafeterias</li><li data-bbox="701 582 1219 827">● 8th grade students will be in a designated location in the cafeteria if they elect to eat breakfast</li><li data-bbox="701 893 1161 986">● Physically distanced whenever possible</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1300 380 1827 472">● Vending machines will be on and available</li><li data-bbox="1300 543 1740 691">● Students will take food to small cafeteria</li><li data-bbox="1300 762 1808 855">● One line will be open for hot breakfast</li><li data-bbox="1300 926 1769 1018">● Physical distancing whenever possible</li></ul>

# School Lunch

Elementary	Middle School	High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will eat both in the cafeteria and in the classrooms based on the schedule</li><li>• This will help to maintain cohorts</li><li>• Physical distancing will be in place for service lines and in both cafeterias</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There will be 2 lunch/recess blocks to allow for separation and physical distancing whenever possible</li><li>• Physical distancing will be in place for service lines and in both cafeterias</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will be assigned a lunch period based on schedules</li><li>• Physical distancing will be in place for service lines and in both cafeterias</li></ul>

# Food Service provision for students learning remote or in quarantine

## **Remote students**

The district will provide a list of fully remote students to food services. Food services will call and inquire if the family is requesting meals (breakfast and lunch). If a family requests meals, they can be picked up at the Johnson City High School Welcome Center **daily** at a designated time (food service will inform the families of the pick up time). A food service worker will bring the meals down to the welcome center and provide them to the family. All meal pickups will be at the High School regardless of the grade level of the student. In order to be eligible for meals, students must be enrolled in the Johnson City School District (in district or Boces approved program)

**If a family has special circumstances they need to contact food service to discuss options (930-1100)**

## **Quarantine students**

The district will provide a list of students who are in quarantine to Food Services. Families will be responsible to contact Food services if they are requesting meals. Meals will be available for pick up or families can request for food to be delivered.

**If a family has a child(children) in quarantine or has special circumstances they need to contact food service to discuss options (930-1100)**



# School Start/End Schedules

<b>Johnson City High School</b> (Grades 9-12)		<b>Johnson City Middle School</b> (Grades 6-8)		<b>Johnson City Elementary School</b> (Grades K-5)	
Start:	7:57 a.m.	Start:	7:27 a.m.	Start:	8:50 a.m.
Dismissal:	2:40 p.m.	Dismissal:	2:07 p.m.	Dismissal:	3:15 p.m.
Extra Help:	7:30 a.m. - 7:57 a.m. (M, T, Th)			Parent Pick-up:	



## Covid-19 District Coordinators

Eric Race, Superintendent of Schools

Elisa Eaton, Asst. Superintendent for Administration

Jeff Paske, Director of Health, PE & Athletics

For questions, email; [COVIDquestions@jcschools.stier.org](mailto:COVIDquestions@jcschools.stier.org)

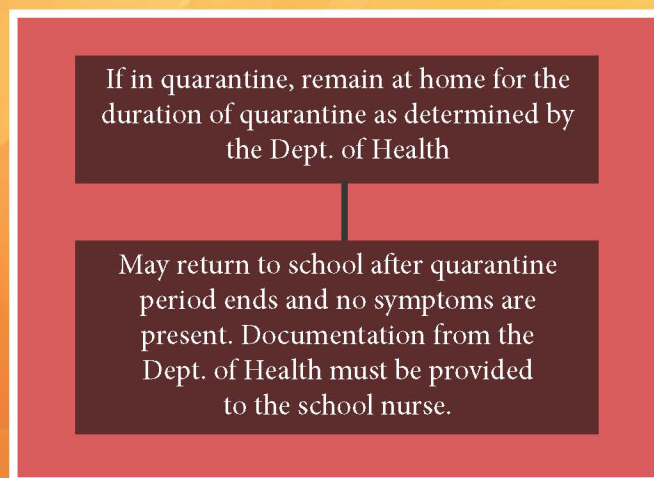
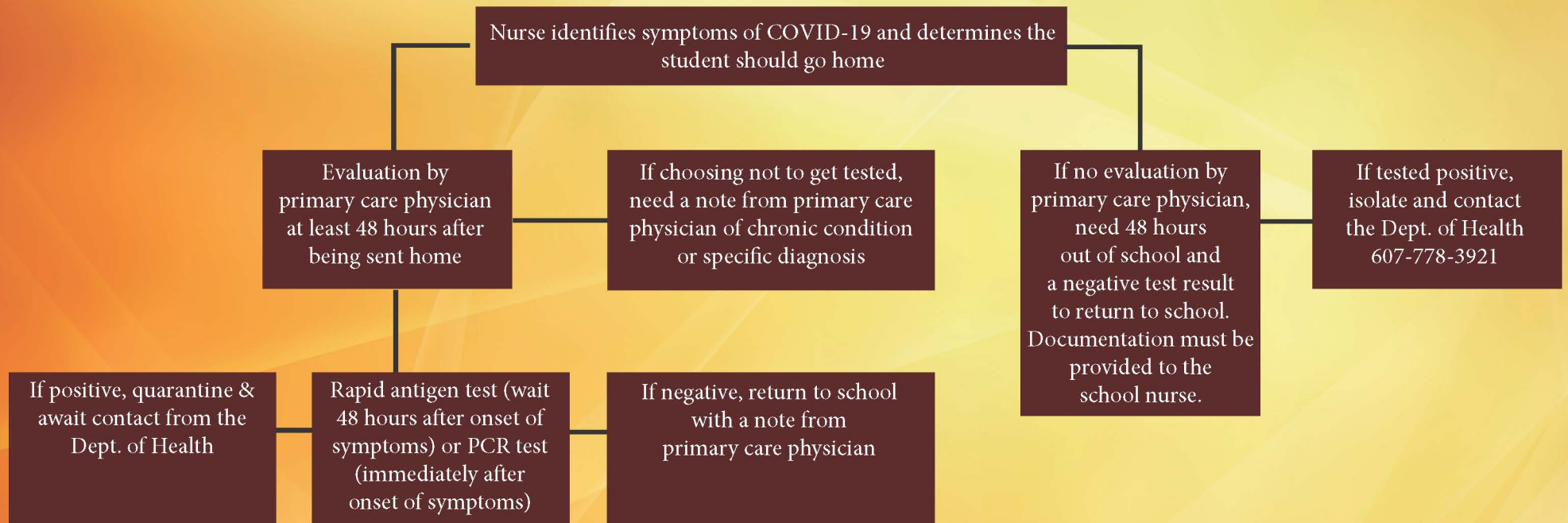
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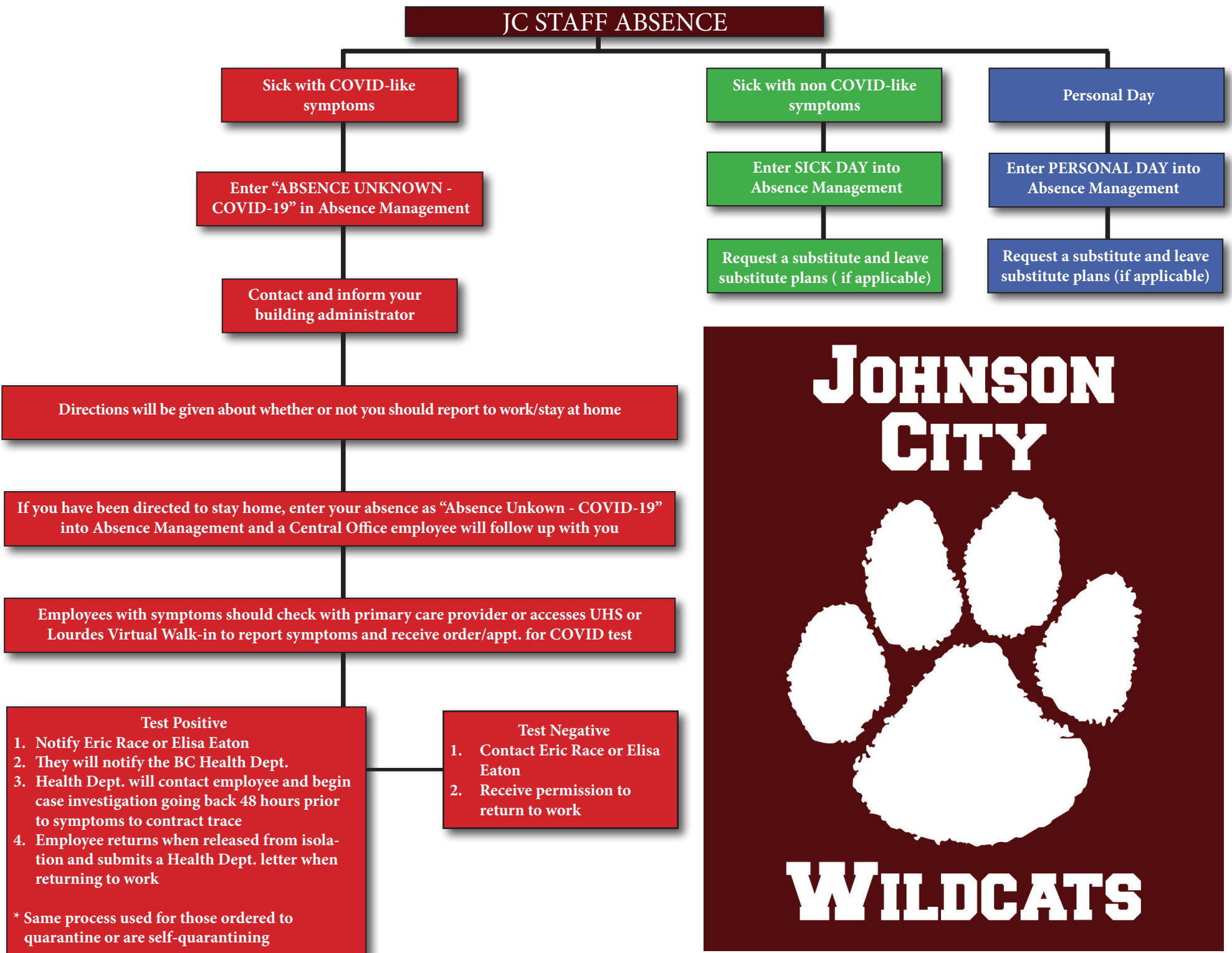
You may contact the building in which your child attends  
or the district office at 930-1005

The district is prepared to make adjustments to its plan as guidance changes from state and local agencies. As has been our goal from the very beginning, our plan is to provide each and every student the best in-person education with **safety priority #1.**

Thank you to our community, students and staff.

# PARENT FLOWCHART





Sick with COVID-like symptoms

Enter "ABSENCE UNKNOWN - COVID-19" in Absence Management

Contact and inform your building administrator

Directions will be given about whether or not you should report to work/stay at home

If you have been directed to stay home, enter your absence as "Absence Unknown - COVID-19" into Absence Management and a Central Office employee will follow up with you

Employees with symptoms should check with primary care provider or access UHS or Lourdes Virtual Walk-in to report symptoms and receive order/appt. for COVID test

**Test Positive**

1. Notify Eric Race or Elisa Eaton
2. They will notify the BC Health Dept.
3. Health Dept. will contact employee and begin case investigation going back 48 hours prior to symptoms to contract trace
4. Employee returns when released from isolation and submits a Health Dept. letter when returning to work

\* Same process used for those ordered to quarantine or are self-quarantining

**Test Negative**

1. Contact Eric Race or Elisa Eaton
2. Receive permission to return to work

Sick with non COVID-like symptoms

Enter SICK DAY into Absence Management

Request a substitute and leave substitute plans (if applicable)

Personal Day

Enter PERSONAL DAY into Absence Management

Request a substitute and leave substitute plans (if applicable)



*August 24, 2021*

*3:00 pm*

*The Governor's words:*

*"We need to require vaccinations for all school personnel with an option to test out weekly at least for now. To accomplish this in New York, we need partnerships with all levels of government, and I am working now on getting this done. New York is launching a back to school COVID-19 testing program to make testing for students and staff widely available and convenient. I am also immediately directing the Department of Health to institute universal masking for anyone entering our schools. Later this week, I will announce a series of school-related policies that will be concise and consistent giving the school districts what they have been asking for."*