

From New York Forward School Reopening Plan  
Uncommon New York City Charter Schools  
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## HEALTH TESTING PROTOCOLS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Uncommon NYC strongly encourages that students, teachers, and staff get tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to school for in-person instruction. Uncommon NYC will utilize resources and referrals for diagnostic testing provided by the NYSDOH and will provide students, staff, and families with these resources whenever necessary and at the consultation of NYCDOH. Uncommon NYC will also work in partnership with NYCDOH nurses assigned to schools to recommend if staff and students should get COVID-19 tests. COVID-19 testing is available across New York City and unless determined otherwise by NYCDOH, students and staff will continue to seek testing from their own doctors or clinics/hospitals of their choice. Uncommon NYC teachers and staff will also be able to access priority testing at any of the [34 city-run testing locations](#). No COVID-19 diagnostic testing for COVID-19 will be done on site at schools.

## CONTACT TRACING

In the case of an individual testing positive for COVID-19, Uncommon Schools NYC will notify local and state departments of health immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Uncommon Schools NYC will then work with support from local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual, in accordance with the protocols, training, and tools provided through New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). DOHMH will support schools by investigating confirmed COVID-19 cases. DOHMH and the NYC Test + Trace Corps, will perform contact tracing as recommended by the CDC, which is a key strategy for preventing further spread of COVID-19. DOHMH will also support with rapid identification of close contacts within a school to identify individuals who need to quarantine.

A positive case will be reported to a school in several ways:

- NYC Test + Trace Corps finds through case interview
- Staff or parent alert school
- Staff or parent alert DOHMH hotline

NYC Test + Trace Corps and DOHMH will then begin investigating self-reported positive COVID-19 test results from a school community within three hours. In parallel, Uncommon Schools NYC will communicate to all families and students at school when a case is confirmed.

Families of students and staff who are confirmed close contacts of the positive case will receive a letter stating that their child/staff member has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual; this letter will give clear direction to quarantine for 14 days. Families of students and staff who are not considered close contacts will receive a letter stating that there was a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the school, but that the child or staff member is not considered a close contact therefore there is no need to quarantine.

In the event a school needs to close due to two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19, that decision will be made by NYC Test + Trace Corps.