

Q. I have three students who all had symptoms of fever, chills sore throat and malaise. They were all tested for COVID and strep but not influenza. Do you have any idea why they were not given a test for influenza?

A. Depending on where they were seen, some tests potentially run for COVID, influenza and RSV. The same machine can also run tests for strep. They were probably not tested for influenza because it is not being seen in the area just yet. The peak is typically December to January, but right now influenza is not being seen here.

Q. Knowing that remote learners have to be screened for mandatory school screenings (vision, dental, hearing), do you have any tips for how to accomplish that?

A. From Andrea Riley (DHHS School Nurse Consultant) – If they are not in the building, yes, students are still required to do screenings. A lot of this is still in development, and schools will need to get creative. Schools may need to have a day when remote learners come in and get screened, or if the parents don't want to, they can go to the health care provider but either way, it has to get done.

Q. I know of a student who was a direct contact, confirmed by pictures from practice and reported to the health dept. The father insisted his child was not a direct contact and got her admitted back to school after out for only 4 days. Is there anything we can do about these situations?

A. This is a tough situation. It is common around the state to have families who refuse to get tested because they know the consequences. All you can do is report like you do with contact tracing; use your pediatrician as the bad guy, so the family can hear it from another source. It often sounds better when two people say the same thing instead of just one. There are similar situations where families refuse to do testing.