

COVID-19 Protocol

Isolation, Exclusion and Return to School

The phrase “COVID-19 symptoms” in this protocol refers to the new onset of one or more of the following symptoms that is not attributed to allergies or a pre-existing condition: fever of at least 100.4 degrees, new cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches, new onset of moderate to severe headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting, diarrhea. Because these are symptoms of many other conditions, it should be considered whether a symptom is new or if it is part of an existing condition.

According to the IDPH, a “close contact” is an individual not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of fifteen minutes or more over a 24-hour period (regardless of whether the individuals were wearing masks) starting from 2 days before symptom onset or a positive test if asymptomatic. For students in the classroom setting, contacts who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student do not require quarantine as long as both the case and contact were consistently masked. If they were not consistently masked, then close contacts are classroom students who were within 6 feet of the infected student for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. In general, individuals who are solely exposed to a confirmed case while outdoors will not be considered close contacts. Fully vaccinated individuals who remain asymptomatic and those with documented COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days are excluded from quarantine.

Report of COVID-19 Symptoms Before or After School

Exclusion

If a parent/guardian (on behalf of a student) or staff member reports experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 before or after school or during a screening process, they should not be permitted to enter the school building and should be directed to contact a health care provider. Household members of the symptomatic student or staff member should also not be permitted to enter or remain in the school building and should remain out of the school building until an alternative diagnosis is made or negative test result received for the symptomatic student or staff member as set forth below.

Return to School

A symptomatic student or staff member (or household member) cannot return to school until:

If NOT tested for COVID-19:

- At least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms AND they have been fever-free (without medication) for 24 hours AND the symptoms have improved (AND, if for a student, they submit a note from a parent/guardian documenting that the ill student and/or household contacts are fever-free (without medication), and symptoms have improved).

OR

- If testing is not performed **due to the clinical judgment of a healthcare provider**, a **medical note** is needed to return to school, documenting that there is no clinical suspicion for COVID-19 infection and indicating an alternative diagnosis, with exclusion consistent with this diagnosis (e.g. 24 hours fever-free).

If tested for COVID-19:

- They have a negative COVID-19 test (result valid only for the date on which individual submitted to testing, when testing performed 48 hours before or after symptom onset) result AND they are fever-free (without medication) AND the symptoms have improved, AND they submit documentation of a negative COVID-19 test result **or** a health care provider's note indicating the negative test result.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should refer to the return to school procedures under the Diagnosis of COVID-19 Section in this document.

Report of COVID-19 Symptoms During the School Day**Isolation/Exclusion**

If a student or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, the student or staff member must be immediately separated from the rest of the school population. Schools must designate areas of the building for use as quarantine areas for this purpose. Students who report or are observed experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should be sent to one of the isolation areas. A staff member must be assigned to supervise the student while in the isolation area and must not leave the student alone. The staff member should, to the extent possible, maintain at least 6 feet of distance from the student at all times. The student's parent/guardian should be contacted to arrange to pick up the student from school and directed to contact a health care provider. The student should remain in the isolation area until he or she can be sent home safely. The student will not be permitted on a school bus or on public transportation when exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms at school. A symptomatic students' siblings or other household members attending the school will also be sent home.

If a staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms during the school day and is well enough to drive home, the staff member should be sent home immediately and directed to contact a health care provider. If the staff member is not well enough to drive or cannot otherwise get home safely, the staff member must isolate in one of the designated areas until arrangements can be made for the staff member to leave school. Supervision of an isolated staff member is not required.

The Principal will identify, for the staff, the isolation space(s) in the school building. The school nurse, or administrator or designee in the absence of nursing professionals, will have the discretion to determine who is placed in such isolation spaces and the level of supervision required. Teachers should report any observation of symptomatic students to the school nurse, administrator or designee. The school nurse will document any student or staff member placed in the isolation space.

The isolation spaces have been set up to reduce the risk of transmission:

- Plastic barriers or curtains have been placed in designated health office spaces to separate individuals with illness symptoms from those without illness symptoms.
- Isolation spaces have been designed to allow for 6 feet of social distancing between individuals and to provide restroom access and access to an exterior door, where possible, to avoid the need for a sick individual to move through the building to exit.
- When interacting with individuals in isolation spaces, school nurses and/or the administrator or designee will wear appropriate PPE including eye protection with face shield or goggles, gown and gloves. Those directly assessing or treating the individual should also wear a fit-tested N95 mask.
- Additionally, treating staff will utilize appropriate hand hygiene and will follow standard precautions for patient care, as outlined by the CDC.

Any areas used by the sick individual will be closed for as long as possible (24 hours where feasible) before cleaning and disinfection and will not be reopened for use before appropriate cleaning and disinfection has occurred. Windows will be opened, when possible, to increase air circulation in the area.

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OR

- If testing is not performed **due to the clinical judgment of a healthcare provider**, a **medical note** is needed to return to school documenting that there is no clinical suspicion for COVID-19 infection and indicating an alternative diagnosis with exclusion consistent with this diagnosis (e.g. 24 hours fever-free).

If tested for COVID-19:

- They have a negative COVID-19 test (result valid only for the date on which individual submitted to testing, when testing performed 48 hours before or after symptom onset) result AND they are fever free (without medication) AND the symptoms have improved, AND they submit documentation of a negative COVID-19 test result or a health care provider's note indicating the negative test result.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should refer to the return to school procedures under the Diagnosis of COVID-19 Section in this document

Adopted: July 27, 2020

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