

COVID-19 Symptoms

Now more than ever, it is crucial that families strictly adhere to D50 protocol on student illness, as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook, section 5.5. As outlined in IDPH and CDC guidance, the symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (100.4 or higher)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle and body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

**The above-listed symptoms will be referred to as “COVID-like symptoms” in this document.*

As you know, the COVID-like symptoms mirror those of multiple other illnesses. Hence, families must adhere to D50 protocol to ensure that a student does not create an exposure risk or unnecessary concern for others.

Quarterly Self-Certification and Verification

For students coming to D50 buildings, parents/guardians must complete a form certifying that they will be responsible for “screening” their students each day before sending them to school. Forms will be:

- Completed quarterly; and
- Submitted by March 15 to allow school-level teams to collect and verify the forms.

Daily Symptom Screening

Only healthy students should utilize district transportation or attend in-person learning at a D50 building. Parents/guardians will conduct a symptom screening before their student(s) departs for school. The Daily Symptom Screening occurs at home and consists of taking your students’ temperature and verifying that they do not have any COVID-like symptoms.

Parent/Guardian Reports Student Absence/Illness

Parents/guardians are required to notify the school health office if they suspect their child has a communicable disease or has one or more COVID-like symptoms. Parents/guardians will be asked to complete a questionnaire over the phone with the Health Services Aide each time a student is called in sick.

Specific symptom reporting is necessary when reporting absences. For contact tracing purposes, information will be documented, monitored, and shared with the District Nurse, Health Services Aide, other District personnel, and the local health department, as necessary.

Positive COVID Case Protocol

The following protocol outline D50's response to any instance where there is a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case:

- The student demonstrating COVID-like symptoms will be isolated in the building's designated room, and the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the child.
- The student information will be shared with the local health department for tracking purposes.
- The student must remain at home for the duration of the required isolation/quarantine period.
- Families of students identified as "close contacts" will be notified by school staff regarding a possible exposure event. Subsequent follow-up communication will be provided as needed.
- The classroom or area will be cleaned per IDPH and local health department guidelines.
- Anyone having had close contact with a confirmed or probable case may be sent home to quarantine for 14 days. Those who did not have close contact may return to school/work so long as they remain symptom-free.
- Five COVID-19 infections occurring within 14 calendar days of each other in individuals in the same classroom, club, or event would meet the case definition for an outbreak. This is because the cases would be epidemiologically linked to place and time. This event would prompt a discussion with the local health department and may result in recommendations for testing and quarantining all students/staff in the affected classroom, club, or event.

Positive COVID-19 Case Notification

A Positive Case Notification letter will be sent to parents/guardians when there is an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19 and they have been in a D50 building or participated in any "in-person" D50 event (i.e. athletics, club).

Parents/guardians of students identified as a "close contact" to the individual who tested positive will receive a phone call from the school with specific details on potential quarantine timelines and instructional delivery changes.

Parents/guardians of students who were not identified as "close contacts" will only receive the Positive Case Notification letter. If your child(ren) is not identified as a "close contact," no further action is required.

Close contact with someone who tested positive or is suspected of having COVID-19

The student will be instructed to stay home and quarantine for 14 days from the last day of exposure and monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, the parent/guardian must notify the building Health Services Aide for further guidance. CDC guidance recommends testing for symptomatic individuals.

- A “close contact” is defined as being within 6 feet for a cumulative total of at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period with or without a mask.

Student exhibits one or more symptoms and is suspected of having COVID-19

The student will be instructed to stay home and isolate until:

- Fever free for at least 24 hours (without the use of medicine that reduces fever); AND
- At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared; OR
- Provide a healthcare provider note indicating an alternative diagnosis; OR
- Present proof of a negative COVID-19 test

Student has tested positive for COVID-19

Students will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 and will be instructed to stay home and isolate until:

- Fever free for at least 24 hours (without the use of medicine that reduces fever); AND
- At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND
- Obtain contact information and inform parent/guardian the school nurse will be providing follow-up; AND
- School nurse to be notified upon student return to school

Students who develop COVID-like symptoms during the day

Any student who begins to exhibit any COVID-like symptoms during the school day must report to the designated area within the building. *It is important that parents/guardians maintain updated emergency contact information.*

Students will continue to wear their face covering and remain in the designated area until a parent/guardian picks the student up or authorized transportation is arranged. It is imperative that the parent/guardian make arrangements to pick-up their child as soon as possible when they are contacted due to their child becoming sick during the school day.

After the student is picked up, the schools’ Health Services Aide will contact the parent/guardian to complete a questionnaire over the phone.

Siblings or Other Students in the Household

If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-like symptoms or has a positive COVID-19 test, any other student living in the same household will also be excluded from school and will follow the “Close Contact” protocol.

Students Needing Nursing Services During the School Day

The school health office will continue to be open to accommodate the routine medical needs of students. All procedures will be followed as outlined in the District Parent-Student Handbook, section 5.20 Student Medication.

The only exception to this will be for students with asthma. Per ISBE guidance, it is recommended that nebulizer treatments be administered at home. Parents/guardians should consult with health care providers for alternate asthma medication delivery systems. Asthma action plans should reflect the use of asthma inhalers and spacers.

In accordance with joint guidance from ISBE and IDPH, students who are sick should not return to school until they have met the criteria to return.

Face Coverings

There is significant evidence that face coverings provide protection and decrease the spread of COVID-19. Face coverings must be worn at all times in all D50 buildings and on busses, even when social distancing is maintained. All individuals in D50 buildings must wear face coverings at all times, unless they are younger than two years of age, have trouble breathing, or are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.

Each building will maintain a supply of disposable face coverings in the event that a student, employee, or visitor does not have one for use. D50 will provide one reusable cloth face covering for each student and employee. Students and employees may use their own face covering.

D50 requires a doctor’s note indicating when a student or employee is unable to wear a face-covering within a district building or when utilizing district transportation due to an identified/documentated health condition. D50 will communicate with the family or employee and make a reasonable accommodation in regard to their inability to wear a face covering.

Hand Washing and Hygiene

Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing are key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Students and employees must wash their hands as often as possible with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. Hand sanitizer will be placed in common areas throughout each school building. Each building will have signage reminding everyone of the need for proper hand hygiene in the appropriate areas.



It is recommended that hand hygiene is performed upon arrival to and departure from school, after blowing one's nose, coughing or sneezing, following restroom use, before food preparation or before/after eating, before/after routine care for another person, after contact with a person who is sick, upon return from the playground/outdoors, and following glove removal. Students and employees must wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom each time. If assisting a student requires close contact, hand washing or sanitizing must be done before and after contact with the student(s). Students and employees should avoid touching their mouth, eyes, or nose as much as possible.

Physical Distancing

Harvard Community Unit School District 50 has developed procedures to ensure six feet of physical distance from other persons as much as possible. This expectation pertains to students and employees in all areas and settings to the greatest extent possible. Visual reminders will be posted throughout District buildings, and employees will provide verbal reminders of keeping safe distances in areas where students may congregate or line up (cafeterias, hallways, and other common areas). Students will remain with their daily cohorts to reduce mixing grade levels within the building as much as possible. The District will stagger bus loading and unloading, hall passing periods, mealtimes, bathroom breaks, etc., to ensure student and employee safety. Students and employees should abstain from physical contact, including, but not limited to, handshakes, high fives, hugs, etc.