



## PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535

### Testing and Exclusions

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*Last Updated: August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Board of Education approval)*

Per the COVID Prevention Strategy Plan, any student feeling ill or reporting any of the COVID symptoms as listed by IDPH must be excluded from school. Current symptoms include the following: fever (100.40°), new onset of severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, fatigue, and muscle/body aches.

The following provides general procedures for testing and returning to school:

#### **SYMPTOMATIC**

- The student should not report to school. The absence should be reported to the individual's school according to handbook procedure.
- A school nurse will contact the parent/guardian to provide directions for testing and exclusion. (It is recommended that a student test for COVID to return to school as soon and safe as possible.)

#### **With Testing**

- With parent/guardian consent, a student may test at a scheduled time with the school nurse the same day or following day.
  - A student may also take a test with a medical provider as long as documentation can be shared with the District.
- A negative result from the District or medical provider will allow the student to return to school as long as they have been without fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea for 24 hours.
- An at-home test can only be used in certain situations and requires documented evidence of the student taking the test. This option can only be used in consultation with a school nurse. Please speak with a school nurse for assistance if no other option is available for testing.

#### **Without Testing**

- A student who does not test will be required to be excluded from school for at least 5 days.
  - The student may return on day 6 as long as they have been without fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea for 24 hours.
  - The student may remain excluded from school for up to 10 days, depending on symptoms.
  - Remote learning will be provided during the entire exclusion period but not beyond 10 days.
  - It is highly recommended that students returning from exclusion wear a mask on days 6 through 10.

#### **POSITIVE**

- The individual should not report to school. The absence should be reported to the individual's school according to handbook procedure.
- A school nurse will contact the parent/guardian to provide directions for testing and exclusion.
- The student will be required to be excluded from school for at least 5 days.
  - The student may return on day 6 as long as they have been without fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea for 24 hours.
  - The student may remain excluded from school for up to 10 days, depending on symptoms.
  - Remote learning will be provided during the entire exclusion period but not beyond 10 days.
  - It is highly recommended that students returning from exclusion wear a mask on days 6 through 10.
- An at-home test can only be used in certain situations and requires documented evidence of the student taking the test. This option can only be used in consultation with a school nurse. Please speak with a school nurse for assistance if no other option is available for testing.