



Public Health Recommendations for the Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance of Ill Students and Staff for COVID-19 in Schools

The following symptom screening criteria for ill students and staff is based on the most current research. Because people with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness, the following criteria has been developed to assist schools in identifying presumptive positive COVID-19 cases.

Students with two of the following: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

OR

At least one of the following: new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste and smell

Students and staff who screen positive should be immediately isolated in the designated area and sent home as soon as possible. Require the symptomatic person to wear a cloth or surgical mask while waiting, if tolerable.

Re-Admittance to School

Symptomatic staff/student who tests positive:

Exclude for 10 days from symptom onset AND only allow to return 3 days after fever resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms

Symptomatic staff/student not tested:

Exclude for 10 days from symptom onset AND only allow to return 3 days after fever resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms. May return to school if a doctor establishes an alternative diagnosis, presents a doctor's note to confirm the presence of an alternative diagnosis that explains the symptoms, and meets the school's requirements for readmission.

Symptomatic staff/student who tests negative:

Exclude until afebrile for 24 hours (or meets the school's requirements for readmission) AND improved respiratory symptoms

There is no reason for a student or staff member to get a "negative test" to be cleared for the return to school. A COVID-19 positive individual does not need a repeat COVID-19 test or a doctor's note to return.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, please call the Southeast District Health Department at 402.274.3993 or 877-777-0424.