

# Section II: Health & Safety Procedures

When dealing with infectious disease it is imperative that parents, students, and staff take responsibility for staying home and making arrangements for their absence from school, even when it is difficult to do so. School staff will make every attempt to watch out for and identify students and staff who may be displaying symptoms but ultimately the responsibility rests with each person to protect our school community by doing the right thing.

## COVID-19 Response Policies

Policies developed based on information received from the CDC and SCDHEC and with the cooperation of health officials. Reviewed and adopted 8-24-2020

- **Part A: Exclusion Policies**
- **Part B: Exposure Policies**
- **Part C: Communication & Closure Policies**

### Part A: Exclusion

Students and staff who exhibit any of the following symptoms decrease their ability to participate in the learning process and also put others at risk for the spread of illness. As a result, they will need to be excluded from in-person school and participate virtually as follows:

Symptom Group A – Given the overlap of these symptoms with other more common illnesses students with these symptoms may require different exclusion considerations

- Temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea, Vomiting, or Abdominal Pain
- New onset of headache

Symptom Group B – This is not a complete list of all symptoms of COVID-19, but only those that should trigger an automatic exclusion and evaluation for the virus.

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. (Including a change from normal for those who suffer from ongoing difficulty breathing such as asthma, etc.)
- OR- Loss of taste or smell
- OR- New or worsening cough (Including a change in the norm for those who suffer from seasonal or persistent coughs)



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## COVID-19 Response Policies

### Part A: Exclusion (continued)

Students who exhibit any of the symptoms in Group A will be excused from in-person attendance at school for 3 calendar days AND symptom free for 24 hours (w/o fever reducing medicine for fevers).

Students who exhibit symptoms in Group A AND have had a close contact (been within 6 feet of a person testing positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes with or without a mask while that person was contagious) OR any students who exhibit symptoms in Group B will be excused from school in isolation for a minimum of 3 days and until:

- They have tested negative for COVID-19
- OR- A medical evaluation determines that their symptoms were due to another cause
- OR- 10 days have passed since symptoms started
- AND- 24 hours have passed since last fever without taking medicine to reduce it
- AND- Overall improvement of all symptoms

-Handling Students or Staff With Symptoms: The identified staff member will be immediately be sent home. Identified students will be brought to an isolated room in the building. Parents will be contacted to make arrangements to pick up their child as soon as possible but no later than within the hour. It is recommended for parents and required for staff to contact their healthcare provider to see if testing is needed. Staff members are required and parents recommended to report any resulting information, including test results to the school. The isolated room as well as any other areas used by those individuals will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before further use.

Students who are isolated or excluded from school under the above guidelines may work with their teachers to participate virtually as they are able.



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### Part B: Exposure

Students and staff are considered to have been exposed (close contact) to COVID-19 if they have been within 6 feet of someone who has tested positive for the virus for 15 minutes while they are contagious. An infected person can be contagious starting 48 hours before they had any symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19. If a close contact to a positive case occurs, they will need to be isolated from school as follows:

- Isolate at home for 14 calendar days from the last close contact with the person testing positive.
- Testing is recommended for close contacts no sooner than 7 days after contact with the person while they were contagious.
- Screening for fever and symptoms should be done at home during the 14 days.
- Should the close contact develop symptoms during the 14 day isolation they will be required to isolate at home for 10 days since the onset of symptoms –AND- 24 hours since last fever without taking medicine to reduce it –AND- Overall improvement of symptoms before returning to school
- If a student or staff member lives in the same household as someone in isolation, they will not need to isolate themselves unless the household member is determined to be COVID-19 positive or they develop symptoms themselves.
- Should a case of COVID-19 be identified from amongst the staff or students at the school, the school will notify those who are close contacts who will need to isolate at home.

Students who are isolated at home under the above guidelines may work with their teachers to participate virtually as they are able.



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### Part C: Communication & Closure

Should a COVID-19 case be detected in the school setting, it may require changes in attendance for individuals, classes, buildings, or the campus. The school commits to open communication to all those affected so that we can continue to partner to both help students receive a great education and to protect the safety of our school community.

It is not possible nor recommended by health officials or privacy laws to communicate every time a student or staff member isn't feeling well. The school will communicate, as appropriate, when COVID-19 cases are identified as follows:

- If a positive case of COVID-19 occurs in the school setting, the school will notify potential close contacts of the person involved.
- If a second case of COVID-19 occurs within the same classroom or student group during a two-week period, the classroom or group may move to all virtual learning for 10 school days
- If one of our buildings or the campus reaches positive cases numbering 10% of the total population, the building or campus would move to Red Phase.

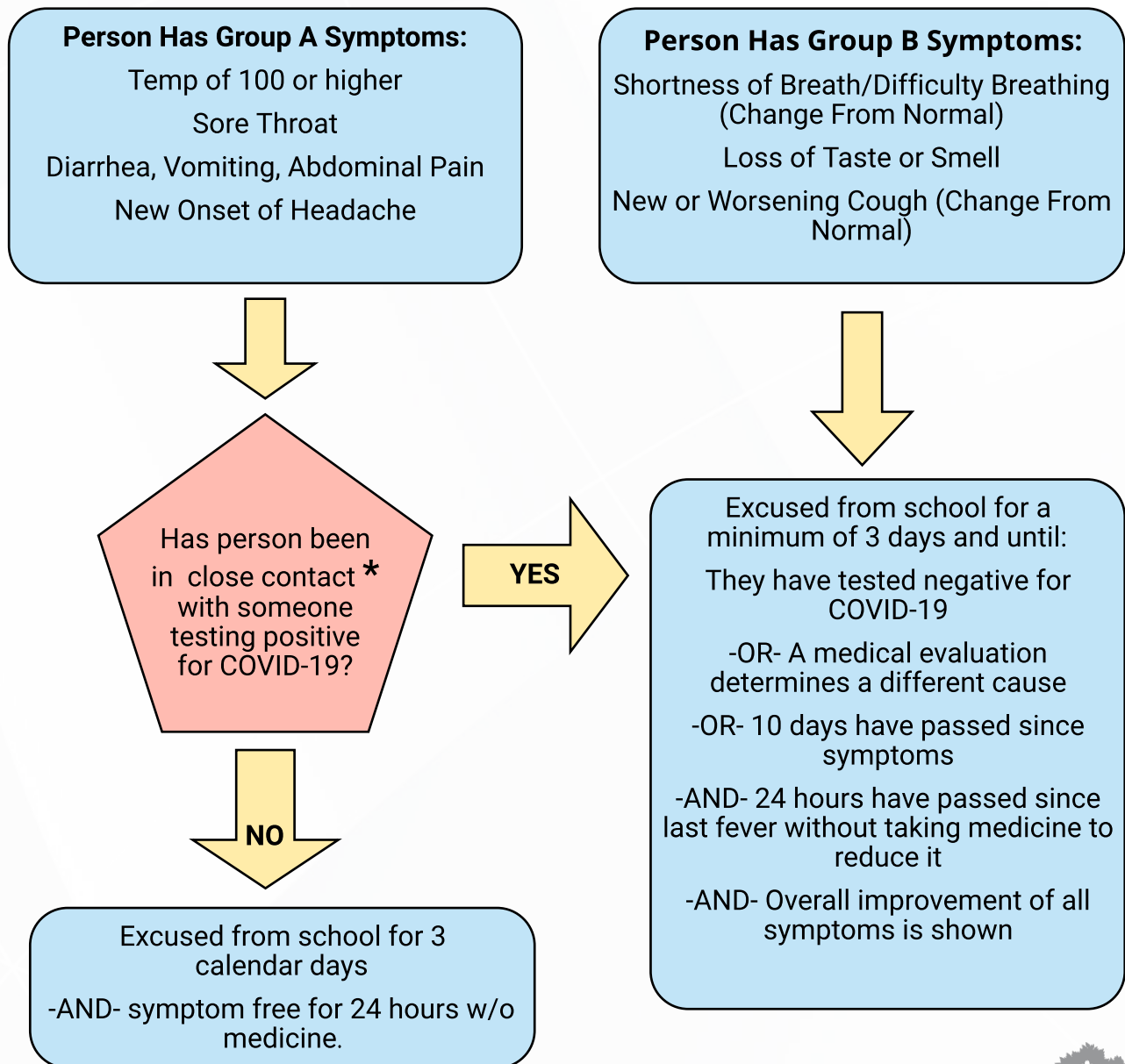
The above mentioned procedures are general guidelines. However, for any positive case, school leadership will work with local health officials and members of SCDHEC in determining an appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis.



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## COVID-19 Response Policies

### Person Displaying Symptoms



\*Close Contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person while they are contagious for at least 15 minutes. A person can be contagious starting 48 hours before they have any symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.



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### Person Who Has Been Exposed\* To The Virus

\*Exposure or close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person while they are contagious for at least 15 minutes. A person can be contagious starting 48 hours before they have any symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

