

Public Health Recommendations for 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 have been developed to assist schools in identifying presumptive positive COVID-19 cases.

Students with two or more 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, new loss of taste/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:

- At least 10* days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
- AND**
- Symptoms have improved

**Asymptomatic staff/student
who tests positive:**

Exclude for:

- 10 days from date of test
- AND**
- only allow to return if no symptoms develop. (If symptoms develop, refer to symptomatic positive instructions.)

**Symptomatic staff/student
not tested:**

Exclude for:

- 10* days from symptom onset
- AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
- AND**
- Symptoms have improved

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 schools requirements for readmission.

*This length of time may need to be extended for people who have severe illness or are immunocompromised. Please consult 3RPHD or a health care provider for further guidance on those situations.

**Symptomatic staff/student
who tests negative:**

Exclude until:

- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications (or meets the schools requirements for readmission)
- AND**
- Symptoms have improved
- AND**
- Student has completed quarantine if required due to an exposure to a positive COVID-19 case

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 in order to return.