

EVALUATING SICK STUDENTS *and* STAFF

Adapted from Iowa Department of Education Guidance in consultation with the Holy Family Medical Advisory Task Force.

HIGH-RISK SYMPTOMS

New cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, fever of 100.4° or higher, vomiting, or a severe low-risk symptom.

LOW-RISK SYMPTOMS

Headache, muscle and body aches, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, nausea, diarrhea.

Students and staff members should remain home when sick. Students or staff members with **ONE** high-risk symptom or **TWO OR MORE** low-risk symptoms are advised to seek an evaluation by a health care provider and will be required to self-isolate for 10 days unless a documented medical evaluation indicates symptoms are clearly consistent with a less serious illness or allergic reaction. Family members are not required to quarantine.

EVALUATION BY A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (MD, DO, PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT OR NURSE PRACTITIONER)

NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST

ALTERNATIVE DIAGNOSIS

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

Without a known exposure/close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, the student or staff member may return to school after 24 hours with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) AND improved symptoms.

Return to school after 10 days since symptoms started AND 24 hours with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) AND improved symptoms. Family members or close contacts are required to quarantine for 14 days following the last exposure to the infected individual (final day of 10-day isolation).

IDENTIFYING CLOSE CONTACTS FOR COVID-19 CASES AT SCHOOL

A “close contact” is defined by the CDC as proximity of less than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more with an individual who is COVID-19 positive. Contact may occur in a classroom, lunchroom, free period, during transportation, at practices or games or other extra-curricular activities.

SCHOOL WILL:

- Notify local public health.
- Identify close contacts at school and quarantine exposed students and staff.
- Notify appropriate school administration, families and staff (while maintaining confidentiality).
- Provide public health with a list of close contacts.

PUBLIC HEALTH WILL:

- Recommend quarantine for all household contacts of COVID-19 case.
- Work with the school to determine which students and staff should be quarantined.

GUIDELINES FOR QUARANTINE AND SELF-ISOLATION

STUDENTS

- If no symptoms develop, students may return to school 14 days after their last contact with the COVID-19 case.
- If symptoms develop, students should be evaluated by a healthcare provider.
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they should isolate for 10 days.
- If a student tests negative for COVID-19, they must still complete their 14-day quarantine before returning to school.

STAFF

- Staff may be considered critical personnel and may be allowed to return to work if there are staffing shortages as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- In these circumstances, staff should take their temperature and screen for symptoms at the start and end of each day, wear a medical grade mask and face shield.
- If symptoms develop, they must isolate immediately.
- In all cases, we will do our best to quarantine staff.

RE-EXPOSED INDIVIDUALS

- Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 12 weeks and have since recovered and remain asymptomatic will not be required to quarantine or retest.
 - » Documentation of the confirmed COVID-19-positive test, within the previous 12 weeks, will be required.
- If new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 develop, the individual will be required to quarantine for 14 days and should be clinically evaluated as appropriate.