

## Return to School Protocol for Students/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms

The purpose of this document is to help schools and parents/guardians understand:

- *When can students/staff safely return to school after they have had COVID-19 symptoms?*

It also answers the following questions:

- *What should household contacts do while waiting for COVID-19 test results?*
- *When can students/staff return to school after receiving a negative COVID-19 test result?*
- *When can students/staff return to school after receiving a positive COVID-19 test result?*
- *When can students/staff return to school if they do not get tested for COVID-19 after having symptoms?*

## Return to School Protocol for Students/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms

**Student/staff is tested for COVID-19**

While waiting for test results:

- **Symptomatic student/staff must remain home from school (self-isolate)**
- **Household members are recommended to self-monitor provided that they have no symptoms. If symptoms develop, these household members should self-isolate and seek testing.**

**Negative COVID-19 Test Result**

Student/staff can return to school if ALL the following apply:

- They do not have a fever (without using medication)
- It has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started improving (if they had symptoms)

**Documented proof of the negative test result is not required to return to school.**

\*Mild symptoms known to persist in young children (e.g., runny nose) may be ongoing at time of return to school if other symptoms have been resolved and there's a negative test

**Positive COVID-19 Test Result**

Students/staff can return to school following the direction provided by public health. See ***School Protocol When Students/Staff Test Positive for COVID-19.***

Students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 will remain in isolation until 3 conditions have been met:

- 1) They have isolated for 14 days after the onset of symptoms AND
- 2) They no longer have a fever AND
- 3) Their symptoms have been improving for at least 72 hours

Students or staff do not need clearance testing or medical notes to return to school

**Student/staff is Not Tested for COVID-19**

Student/staff must remain home from school for 14 days from the onset of symptoms unless ALL the following apply:

- A doctor diagnosed them with another illness
- They do not have a fever (without using medication)
- It has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started improving (if they had symptoms)

**Household members are recommended to self-monitor for the 14-day period provided that they have no symptoms. If symptoms develop, these household members should isolate and seek testing.**