

# COVID-19/ Illness Related FAQ for Parents/Guardians

Information from the Illinois Department of Public Health

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. When should I keep my child home?**

Please keep your child home with ANY one or more of the following:

- Fever (100.4 or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain from unknown cause, new congestion/runny nose, new loss of sense of taste or smell, nausea, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches.

OR

- Your child has tested positive for COVID-19 (Notify the school nurse) OR
- Your child has been a close contact to an
- Individual who has tested positive within the last 14 days

### **2. How long do I need to keep my child home if they have one or more COVID-19 illness symptom?**

Please keep your child home at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND your child is symptom free and fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

### **3. If my child is ill and it's not COVID-19, what does the school need so that my child can return?**

You must provide a healthcare provider's note that must indicate the following:

- No clinical suspicion of a COVID infection and,
- Indicate an alternate diagnosis with,
- An exclusion period (when your child can return to school) consistent with the alternate diagnosis.

OR

- A NEGATIVE COVID-19 test and symptoms have passed.

### **4. One of my children is sick with one or more COVID-19 illness symptoms. Can my other children go to school?**

NO. When one family member is ill with one or more COVID-19 illness symptoms, not attributed to a pre-existing condition, all household members should stay home and quarantine. Siblings and other members should NOT participate in IN-PERSON school, clubs, sports or other activities

## **5. When will my child be sent home from school?**

Your child will be sent home for any one of the following, unless we have a documented alternative diagnosis for the symptoms: Fever (100.4 or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain from unknown cause, new congestion/runny nose, new loss of sense of taste or smell, nausea, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches.

If your child is sent home, ALL siblings will also be sent home from In-Person school or activities.

## **6. What if my child has been identified as a close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes within a 24 hour period) with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?**

While we know hearing about someone testing positive who you have been around can cause worry, please know it is only necessary to quarantine when you are identified as a close contact.

- When the district is notified of a positive case, we swiftly begin the contact tracing process (along with guidance from the health department) to make sure to identify the appropriate staff and students to quarantine.

**IF YOU ARE A CLOSE CONTACT:**

- Close contacts to a person with COVID-19 should be quarantined at home for 14 days and monitor for illness symptoms. If they remain symptom free and complete the 14 calendar days in quarantine, students may return to school. A release from quarantine notification, from the health department is needed to return to school.

**COVID-19 Testing is recommended:**

- If your child develops illness symptoms
- If no symptoms, all close contacts are recommended to be tested between 5-9 days after exposure to a positive case.

## **7. What if my child or household member has been advised by the health department to quarantine?**

Please notify the school nurse so we can assist in developing a timeline to determine the return date or next steps.

## **8. What if my child has tested positive for COVID-19 or someone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?**

- Notify your school nurse
- Stay home, isolate and take care of yourself.
- Provide Health Department letter clearing return to school.
- Only exception: If your child had COVID-19 within the last 90 days, quarantine is not required unless they are showing symptoms.

**Recently, IDPH updated their exclusionary guidance to be more specific. Please use this link to see the most recent version.**

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-COVID19-Exclusion-Decison-Tree.>