

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Local 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 – from mild symptoms to severe illness – the local health department has developed the following criteria to assist schools in identifying presumptive positive COVID-19 cases.

Students with two or more of the following: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

At least one of the following: new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste/smell,

OR

Has at least one symptom and answers yes to: Is there someone in your household who is currently in quarantine or currently positive for COVID-19?

- 1. Students and staff who screen positive should be immediately isolated in the designated area and sent home as soon as possible.
- 2. 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 since symptoms first appeared AND:
- At least 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medication AND:
- Symptoms have improved

Asymptomatic staff/student who tests positive:



Exclude for:

- 10* days from date of test **AND**:
- If symptoms develop, refer to symptomatic positive instructions.

Symptomatic staff/student not tested:



Exclude for:

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

May return to school if a doctor establishes an alternative diagnosis and presents a doctors note.

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

Symptomatic staff/student who tests negative:



Exclude until:

- At least 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication (or meets the schools requirements for readmission) **AND**:
- Improved symptoms **AND**:
- Quarantine completed if required, due to an exposure to a positive COVID-19 case.

Quarantine: Individuals cannot test out of quarantine.

Isolation: A negative test result is not recommended for the return to school. Symptom strategy from CDC is recommended for return school.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html

https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, please call the West Central District Health Department at: 308.696.1201 Upon request WCDHD will issue a release of quarantine/isolation

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