

COVID-19 Guidelines for the 2020-21 School Year

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as they learn more about COVID-19.

CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

If your child is displaying a fever, or any more of these symptoms, please keep him/her home, and consult your health care provider for further information on what to do. It is essential that you notify the school as well.

Parents should take their child’s temperature every day before their child is taken to school. If your child has a fever of over 100.4°F, your child should be kept home from school. You should contact your child’s doctor and the school’s main office. Similarly, you should ask your child if he/she has any of the other symptoms of COVID-19, such as a sore throat, coughing, or nausea. If your child complains of these symptoms, you should keep him/her home and contact your doctor and the school office.

Student Displaying Symptoms of COVID

If a student is exhibiting a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms, they will be immediately separated from others (in a separate room with clear line-of-sight with a responsible employee). Students will never be left alone and will always be supervised while maintaining necessary precautions. ***Parents will be immediately contacted so the student may be taken home.*** If the parents can not be reached, other emergency contacts that the parents have provided will be used.

The student should see a doctor to assess symptoms and/or administer a COVID-19 test. Parents should be encouraged to read the CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others.

If your child is sent home because of exhibiting a symptom of Covid, they can only return if 1 of the following conditions is met:

1. Doctor’s Note of Clearance,
2. Written proof of Negative Covid test result, or
3. 10 days of quarantine/isolation at home (and criteria under “Positive Results” section below

NEGATIVE RESULTS: For students that see a doctor and it is determined the illness is **not** COVID-19, either through a test or the doctor's diagnosis, the student may return to school when symptoms subside *with a doctor's note* confirming the negative COVID-19 diagnosis.

If the student has symptoms but has tested negative on a COVID-19 test, they should remain at home until symptoms disappear. They must provide a doctor's note or the documented COVID-19 test results before being allowed to return to school.

POSTIVE RESULTS: If a student tests **positive** for COVID-19 **or does not seek medical attention**, students must isolate and not return to school until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation, which currently includes:

- Three days with no fever (and no medicine) and
- Other symptoms improved by 75 percent and
- **10 days since symptoms first appeared**

Students will be allowed to complete and submit work remotely during time away from school. It is expected that if the student is well enough to complete assignments that they participate in virtual learning and complete assigned material during this time.

If a student is positively diagnosed for COVID-19, the school must be notified and the following Isolation/Infection Protocol will go into place:

Isolation/Infection Protocol

1. The student, employee or volunteer should be sent home and monitored for ongoing symptoms, as described above.
2. A COVID-19 Exposure Letter is distributed to all parents and employees. The privacy of the impacted student or employee will be protected, and the identity of the individual can not be revealed.
3. The cohort of the infected individual will be quarantined and move to distance learning.
4. When cohorts are quarantined, the entire cohort (students and employees) are sent home. They are asked to remain home until they have met the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation, which currently includes:

- **14 days since exposure to the infected individual(s) for asymptomatic individuals**

For students that later test positive during the quarantine time:

- Three days with no fever and
- Other symptoms improved by 75 percent and
- **10 days since symptoms first appeared**

5. While at home, the quarantined cohort will be engaged in e-learning.
6. The health of all non-quarantined individuals will be closely monitored.
7. The cohort's classroom should be thoroughly cleaned. Windows in the area should be opened to maximize airflow.
8. In cases of widespread infections (multiple cohorts), the entire school may be placed on quarantine. This will be decided upon by the Principal under the direction of the Regional Director.

COVID-19 EXPOSURE OF FAMILY MEMBERS

In cases where students have exposure to individuals (such as an immediate family member) who are COVID-19–positive in their home, the following steps will be followed:

The individual(s) should be asked to remain at home for at least 14 days from last exposure to their family member, or in the event the individual continues contact with their family member, 14 days from the time when their family member has met the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation, which currently includes:

- Three days with no fever (and no medicine) and
- Other symptoms improved by 75 percent and
- **10 days since appearance of the first symptom, and**
- **14 days from negative Covid test of infected family member if family member resides in the same household as the student (or 14 days from last contact with family member)**

Students will be allowed to complete and submit academic work while at home.

Please notify the office immediately if you child has been in contact with a family member that tests positive for Covid 19 for further guidance.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES – WELLNESS CHECKS

All students must wear facemasks when arriving to school.

When students enter school every day, they will be asked to participate in three tasks. These are:

1. A temperature check, administered by a school employee (please note that parents should also take temperatures every day).
2. Students should wash their hands with soap or use hand sanitizer.
3. Students will be asked if they are feeling well.

If a student has a temperature above 100.4°F or complains of other COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will be immediately sent to the office. Parents will be contacted and asked to pick up the child

Parents and guardians are not allowed to enter the building to escort students to/from classrooms at arrival and dismissal.

DISMISSAL

Parents will not be able to congregate at dismissal time. Please pick up your students at the correct time in the parking lot, or arrange for the to be registered in the after care program. Parents should keep their masks on while in the parking lot.

MASKS

Masks must be worn at all times by every individual in the school building. Masks must completely cover the mouth and nose, and fit properly. Masks should not slide down; a poor fitting mask offers little protection.

If families are utilizing reusable masks, families should purchase at least two masks, and masks should be washed by parents after every school day.

If parents are utilizing disposable masks, masks should be discarded after every school day. Parents should send students with extra disposable masks in case they are damaged during the day.

“Gaiters” (pull-up face coverings) may be used as an alternative to masks, provided they have 3 layers of fabric and completely cover the mouth and nose at all times.

Masks should not contain messages or images that would distract from the educational environment, and need to be school-appropriate.

Valve masks, or masks having vents, are **not** allowed.

TRAVEL

If a student travels to a state/country that is on the Chicago quarantine list, they must notify the school and quarantine for 14 days upon arrival back to Chicago.