

Public Health Recommendations for the Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance of Symptomatic 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 (and will change with new findings). Because people with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms — ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness, the following criteria has been developed to assist schools in identifying presumptive positive COVID-19 cases.

Individuals with two of the following: fever (measured or reported), chills & shivering, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

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

Students and staff who screen positive should be immediately isolated in a designated area and sent home as soon as possible. Require the symptomatic person to wear a cloth or surgical mask while waiting, if tolerable. Staff attending to the individual should also be masked.

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Symptomatic staff/student who tests positive:

Exclude until:

At least 10* days have passed from symptom onset

AND fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication
AND symptoms have improved

Re-Admittance to School

Symptomatic staff/student not tested:

Exclude until:

At least 10* days have passed from symptom onset **AND** fever free for 24 hours

<u>AND</u> fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication

AND symptoms have improved

OR Exclude until:

A provider establishes an alternative diagnosis confirmed by doctor's note **AND** school requirements for readmission are met.

Symptomatic staff/student who tests negative:

Exclude until afebrile for 24 hours (or meets the school's requirements for readmission)

AND improved symptoms

There is no reason for a student or staff member to get a "negative test" to be cleared for the return to school. A COVID-19 positive individual does not need a repeat COVID-19 test or a doctor's note to return.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, please call NCDHD at 402-336-2406.