

Presumptive and Confirmed COVID-19 Case Protocol for the 2021-2022 School Year

The District, in consultation with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), has established protocols to respond to suspected and confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 to maintain the health and safety of the school community.

All staff and parents/guardians of students are required to notify the appropriate District designee (as outlined in the Pre-screening/Symptom Monitoring/Mandatory Reporting section below) immediately if a school employee or student experiences symptoms of COVID-19, has a positive COVID-19 test, or has been exposed to an individual with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

Personal Illness

All individuals who are sick are expected to stay home, and any student, staff member, or approved visitor who becomes sick while in a District building will be sent home immediately.

Symptoms Suggestive of COVID-19 Illness

- Fever of 100.4°F or greater
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New or persistent cough
- New loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Pre-Screening/Symptom Monitoring/Mandatory Reporting

Parents/guardians, students, and staff are required to conduct a daily self-screen at home before reporting to school or work. If they answer yes to *any* of the screening questions, they must refrain from entering a school district building.

Parents/Students

All parents/guardians will be required to conduct a daily Pre-Arrival Screening of their children at home, before their children leave for school, which involves taking temperatures daily and monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 listed on page 2. If *any* of the symptoms are present, the parent/guardian must keep the student at home and contact the school nurse for further instructions.

EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS WHO ARE CLOSE CONTACTS OF A POSITIVE CASE OF COVID-19

- If you are identified as a close contact of a positive case of COVID-19, you will be contacted directly by Student Health Services and/or Employee Health Services, and may additionally be contacted by PDPH, with important information concerning the need to quarantine. Close contact is defined as being within six feet of the person for more than 15 minutes within a 48-hour period. An employee or student who is identified as a close contact with a positive case of COVID-19 must quarantine at home for 10 days. However, you may end quarantine after Day 7 and return to work or school on Day 8 if you remain asymptomatic and receive a negative COVID-19 test between Day 5 and 7. After ending quarantine, you must continue to monitor symptoms until 14 days after initial exposure. If at any point during this interval you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you should self-isolate and pursue testing.
- If an employee or student is 14 days post their second dose of a two dose vaccine and is asymptomatic, they do not need to quarantine.
- If you are not identified as a close contact, you do not need to quarantine and should report to work or school.

COVID-19 EXPOSURE NOTIFICATION

Should a positive COVID-19 case occur at a school or in an office building, consistent with both notification requirements for other communicable diseases and legal confidentiality, the District will follow PDPH regulations for exposure to a communicable disease; the school nurse, the Office of Student Health Services, or the Office of Employee Health Services will notify the PDPH. All District students, staff, and families who have been potentially exposed to a positive COVID-19 case will be notified. These notifications will be completed by administration, in consultation with the school nurse (for students) and Employee Health Services (for staff), by phone with follow-up written correspondence which will include:

- If known, date of potential exposure
- Information on self-monitoring for symptoms, and safety protocols that help to limit exposure (hand washing, face coverings, physical distancing)
- Local testing site information to schedule an appointment for testing

STUDENT WHO DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS WHILE AT SCHOOL

If a student develops symptoms of a COVID-19 illness while at school, the following will occur:

Protocol for Sending a Student to the Health room from a Classroom

Teacher's Role

- Teacher will call the Health Room prior to sending the student and notify the nurse of the reason for the visit.
- Teacher will assign an adult to accompany the student to the Health room if age warrants accompaniment. Adult will present student to nurse and leave the health room.

Nurse's Role

- Based on the teacher's description, the nurse will determine the area of treatment: Health room or Medical Waiting Room.
- Students will be assessed in the Medical Waiting Room if they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 illness
- Nurse will perform prompt and appropriate assessment and documentation as per protocol.
- If student meets the criteria for COVID-19 testing as per protocol, and the student's family has consented to COVID-19 testing, the nurse will administer BinaxNOW test adhering to training provided by CHOP/SHS.
- If a student tests positive,
 - School nurse will place student in Medical Waiting Room if testing performed elsewhere.
 - School nurse will notify the building administrator and Student Health Services.
 - School nurse will notify covid.schools@phila.gov via email and cc nurse coordinator at studenthealth@philasd.org.
 - Letters will be distributed by school administration to school staff and families as per PDPH guidance.
 - The positive student will not be allowed to ride District transportation home; they must be picked up by the parent or guardian.
- Parents/guardians will be given instructions for further care dependent on the results of COVID-19 testing.

When a Symptomatic Student Tests Negative for Covid 19 but exhibits one symptom that does not warrant being sent home according to the District Sick Protocol

If student exhibits a singular symptom (*muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion, fatigue*) of COVID-19 that otherwise would not warrant the student being sent home according to the normal sick protocol AND the student tests negative, the student can return to class if:

- the student is not linked to any other positive cases at school AND
- the parent/guardian confirms the student has not been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 within the past 10 days

When a Symptomatic Student Tests Negative for Covid 19 but exhibits symptoms that warrant being sent home according to the District Sick Protocol

If student exhibits any of the following symptoms (*fever, chills, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, new or persistent cough, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*) of COVID-19 AND even if the student tests negative:

- Student must be sent home due to symptoms of illness
- Student may return to school when:
 - the student has proof of a negative PCR test or other molecular test OR
 - a clinician has evaluated the student and documented an alternative diagnosis and that the student may return to school

When a Symptomatic Student Does Not Get Tested

Student should be sent home and remain home until all of the following are true:

- at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms AND

- until fever free and off anti-fever medications for 24 hours AND
- respiratory symptoms are improving

Regardless of consent the parent/guardian of a student with symptoms of COVID-19 that meet the criteria described above to be sent home will be required to pick the student up immediately in the same manner that students who have been tested. All students regardless of participating in the testing program will be required to be picked up from school when they are ill.

STUDENT WHO TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

When a student tests positive for COVID-19, the parent/guardian must:

- Notify the school nurse.
- Adhere to the Return to School Guidelines below.

Student Health Services will:

- Notify PDPH and provide the following information: student's name, date of birth, contact information, the date the student became symptomatic, date of testing, most recent date at school, and school location.
- Collaborate with PDPH to identify all students, teachers and other contacts who spent more than 15 minutes within 6 feet of the infected student within a 48- hour period before onset of symptoms and report the information to Student Health Services. PDPH will assist in determining which individuals identified should quarantine at home. Anyone who develops symptoms during that time should contact their healthcare provider to request testing.
- Notify the Office of Facilities to initiate cleaning protocols as per department guidelines.

RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDELINES

When tested and determined to be **COVID-19 positive**, the student will remain home until all of the following are true:

- at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms, AND
- 24 hours fever-free without use of fever reducing medication (Tylenol, Motrin, etc.), AND
- symptoms are improving.

Note: *The COVID-19 positive individual does NOT need a repeat COVID test or a doctor's note in order to return to school.*

When symptomatic, tested, and determined to be **COVID-19 negative**, the student will remain home until:

- Receiving and presenting a negative PCR test available at any of the [Stationary Sites](#) or from another entity.
- The student meets the school's normal criteria for return after an illness which includes fever free, vomiting and diarrhea free for greater than 24 hours without medication OR
- A clinician has evaluated the child and documented an alternative diagnosis and that the student may return to school.

When symptomatic but **COVID-19 testing was not completed**, the students will remain home until all of the following are true:

- at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms, AND
 - 24 hours fever-free without use of fever reducing medication (Tylenol, Motrin, etc.), AND
 - symptoms are improving;
- OR
- A clinician has evaluated the student and documented an alternative diagnosis and that the student may return to school sooner than 10 days.

COVID-19 TESTING

If you require testing for COVID-19, call your healthcare provider. If you do not have a healthcare provider, the District offers symptomatic testing for students and staff at mobile site locations Monday-Friday 9 AM to 6PM. In addition, you can visit the City's map of testing sites to find a location that will not require an order from a healthcare provider at the following link: <https://www.phila.gov/covid-testing-sites/#/> or, if you have Keystone HMO or Personal Choice PPO through the District, please refer to this list of [participating COVID-19 testing locations](#).

If you have Keystone HMO or Personal Choice PPO through the District, your healthcare plan covers testing for COVID-19 at no cost. The plan will cover and reimburse member cost-sharing (such as co-pays, deductibles, and coinsurance) for the COVID-19 test when performed at an in-network physician's office, urgent care center, or emergency room, or by a home health agency. The plan also covers COVID-19 antibody testing with no member cost-share in accordance with federal guidelines for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is a key strategy used by health departments to prevent the further spread of infectious diseases. It involves identifying people who have the virus, determining who they have been in contact with, and notifying the contacts for further recommendations concerning potential quarantining to interrupt disease transmission. When notified of a staff member, student, or approved visitor with a confirmed case of COVID-19, the District, through the Office of Employee Health Services (for staff) and the Office of Student Health Services (for students), will coordinate with PDPH on COVID-19 reporting and response efforts.

SCHOOL CLOSURE AND SCHOOL DISMISSAL

Guidance regarding the closure or dismissal of a classroom, school, and/or other District facility due to COVID-19 will be provided by PDPH. The decision to close or dismiss students and/or staff from any District facility does not rest with the District. PDPH will work closely with the District's appointed designee(s) to make the determination that best addresses the specific circumstances. Decisions about closures will be made carefully, and with the health, safety, and needs of our students and families in mind. As a situation evolves and decisions are made, communications will be sent out to all necessary stakeholders.