

RESPONSE PROTOCOL FOR SICK OR POSITIVE COVID-19 STUDENTS OR STAFF

When Someone Becomes Sick at School

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS or FEVER OVER 100.4°F

1

If a student, staff, or volunteer begins to show **COVID-19 symptoms** or has a **temperature above 100.4°F** while at school, they must immediately be separated from other students, staff, or volunteers. Steps should be taken to send them home immediately.

2

ISOLATED SAFE SPACE

Create a space where the student will wait before they go home. This safe space should be separate from the nurse's office and other areas students are likely to visit.

3

WEAR FACE COVERING

Students should be monitored by a staff member wearing a face covering and maintaining physical distance when possible.

4

CLEAN & DISINFECT

Identify areas exposed to by ill student. Close off those areas used by an ill person and do not use them until after it is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

ACTION STEPS SCHOOLS

CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE

ACTION STEPS FCPH

1

REPORT TO FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH (FCPH)

If schools are notified of a confirmed case they should report it to FCPH immediately. A member of the FCPH investigation team will review the information and follow-up as needed.

2

IDENTIFY CLOSE CONTACTS

School should promptly work to gather the list of close contacts for the case starting 48 hours before symptoms began or if the case does not have symptoms, 48 hours before the date of test collection. Review class schedules, cohort groups, before and after care program, bus information and extracurricular activities to determine where close contact might have occurred.

The names, addresses, phone numbers, of those staff and students (parents of students) should be provided to the FCPH investigation team member when requested.

3

DISINFECT SCHOOL AREAS

The school should perform deep cleaning in all areas where the case was present up to and including 2 days before the onset of the first reported symptom or 2 days before the test was performed in the case does not have symptoms.

1

NOTIFY SCHOOL & CONDUCT CASE INTERVIEW

FCPH will contact the designated school leadership and school nurse.

FCPH (or the local health department where the case lives) will contact the case and conduct an interview. The case will be isolated. The case will receive an email or letter explaining isolation requirements and release from isolation criteria that must be met before going back to school.

2

ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

- Must be isolated for at least 10 days after symptoms first appeared **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) **AND**
- Symptoms have improved.

During the interview with the case, the local health department will identify contacts/exposures who are not other students or school staff (contacts outside of school).

3

MANAGEMENT OF CLOSE CONTACTS

Health Department will contact all close contacts (identified by both the school and FCPH) and conduct a brief interview. The contacts will be quarantined for 14 days.

All contacts will receive an email or letter from their local health department explaining the quarantine requirements and release from quarantine criteria that must be met before going back to school. Close contacts do not need to be tested. If they do get tested and test negative they still need to complete the full 14-day quarantine period.

All isolated and quarantined cases will receive a letter authorizing his/her release to return to school.

DEFINITIONS

CLOSE CONTACT is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection)

ISOLATION separates people with an infectious disease from people who are not sick.

QUARANTINE is to separate people who are exposed to an infectious disease to see if they may become sick.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR SCHOOLS

If a positive case is identified during the school day, case and contact tracing should take place immediately. Contacts that are at school will be identified and asked to be removed from school as soon as possible.

Stay home. Someone who has been tested and is waiting for lab results should not be at school since that person is considered a suspect case and must be isolated in their residence.

Sick leave and absence policies should not penalize staff or students for staying home when symptomatic or in quarantine or isolation.

TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 SCHOOLS SHOULD



Educate staff and families about when they/their children should stay home.



Recognize signs and symptoms and, if possible, conduct daily health checks of staff and students.



Staff should understand their role in influencing students and instructing them on proper prevention strategies. Incorporate signs, posters, and other methods to reinforce the important practice of frequent handwashing and sanitizing.



Clean and disinfect frequently touch surfaces as much as possible.



Assure students and staff comply with the mandatory face covering order (unless exemptions are met).



Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times.

