

# Health Protocols for Schools

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## Symptom Screening

### Symptoms to look for when screening

The following is a list of symptoms currently associated with COVID-19. This list is subject to change as we learn more about the virus.

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

### Space for Symptomatic Student or Staff Member

The Departments of Health and Education recommend that each school have a separate area where students and staff who begin showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school can wait for someone to pick them up. This area should be separate from the regular nurse's office or area. Upon identification of symptoms source control measures should be taken and a mask should be placed on the symptomatic person. The individual staffing the area should wear appropriate PPE, and social distancing should be strictly practiced. This space or room should be disinfected regularly and after every use. Students who are ill should be walked out of the building to their parents. Any individual displaying COVID-19 symptoms should be directed to contact their healthcare provider.

## Recommendations for Return to School

According to current [CDC guidelines](#), a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 can return to school after finishing the recommended time in self-isolation (10 days after symptom onset or a positive test if asymptomatic.) A student or staff member who has been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 can return to school after finishing the recommended time in self-quarantine (currently 14 days after exposure).

In addition, students and staff should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and show symptom improvement before returning to school. This precautionary measure applies to any student or staff member with a fever regardless of whether or not they had a positive COVID-19 test result.