

Public Health Recommendations for the Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance of Ill 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. 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.

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

OR

Students with **two** of the following: fever (measured or subjective), chills, cold/shivering, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

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



Family Physician for diagnosis/care - We understand it is alarming to have overlapping symptoms with COVID-19. An in-person doctor's office visit can help us determine what's going on. Depending on your symptoms and health history, a virtual visit or telehealth visit may also be appropriate for you. Speak with your doctor's nurse to determine the best option.

If COVID-19 testing is needed there are 3 different testing options. The most appropriate testing will be determined by your health care provider.

Rapid Test - Results are available same day.

Send Out Test - Results have been available on average 1-3 days currently.

Test Nebraska - Results have been available on average 3-6 days currently.

Re-Admittance to School

Symptomatic staff/student who tests positive:

Exclude for:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared

AND:

- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication

AND:

- Symptoms have improved

Symptomatic staff/student not tested:

Exclude for:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared

AND:

- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication

AND:

- Symptoms have improved

May return to school if a doctor establishes an alternative diagnosis and meets the schools requirements for readmission.

Symptomatic staff/student who tests negative:

Exclude until afebrile for 24 hours (or meets the schools requirements for readmission) **AND** improved respiratory 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 in order to return.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, please call Four Corners Health Department at (402) 362-2621 or (877) 337-3573.