



ONWARD
CLAYTON!
School
Reopening
2020

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Information adapted from:
"Guidelines for the Prevention,
Investigation, and Control of
COVID-19 Outbreaks in K-12
Schools in Wisconsin," WI DHS,
August 2020.

Exclusion from In-Person Instruction

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In children, symptoms of COVID-19 infection are nonspecific, and illness may mimic a number of other childhood viral infections. The most common COVID-19 symptoms for children are fever and cough. However, children are less likely than adults to present with a fever, and are more likely to have mild or even sub-clinical infection. Teachers and school-based health care providers are encouraged to **use a liberal approach when determining whether to send a child home due to illness**. In other words, if a child is displaying mild symptoms, it may be best to send them home in case it is the beginning of a COVID-19 infection. This decision-making can reduce the risk of the virus transmitting to one or more students or staff in the school. Clear communication between parents, teachers, staff, and school-based health care providers can encourage acceptance of this approach. Additionally, planning to ensure that students can easily access online or remote instruction will be vital to maintaining educational continuity. School-based health care providers or teachers should **send students home if**:

- They have taken any medications (for example, ibuprofen, Tylenol) to reduce fever in the last 24 hours.
- They have tested positive for COVID-19, with or without having symptoms, and have not yet finished their isolation period per public health recommendations.
- Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 by a health care provider, and have not yet finished their isolation period per public health recommendations.
- Within the last two weeks, they have come in close contact with anyone who has COVID-19.

OR within the last 24 hours, they have experienced the follow symptoms above their baseline:

- Either cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of smell or taste
OR
- At least two of the following symptoms:
 - Fever (measured or subjective), or chills or rigors
 - Myalgia (muscle aches)
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

These symptom criteria apply to COVID-19-related exclusions for in-person instruction. Other symptoms may also require exclusion for a different communicable disease. Refer to the *Childhood Communicable Diseases Wall Chart* for additional information. Generally, children with fever, diarrhea, or vomiting alone should be sent home for at least 24 hours, even if it is unrelated to COVID-19 infection.

If a student develops symptoms (described above) consistent with COVID-19 infection during the school day, the school-based health care provider or staff should take the following steps:

- Immediately isolate the ill student to a predesignated room or assigned area away from others.
- Call the student's parent or guardian to inform them their child is ill, and will need to go home or be picked up as soon as possible.
- Provide the student or parent/guardian a short handout that includes the following information:
 - Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection
 - School policy on exclusion and return to in-person instruction
 - Instructions on in-home isolation measures
 - Information regarding quarantine recommendations for siblings and household contacts
 - Recommendation to seek medical evaluation and/or testing for COVID-19, influenza, and other childhood infections
 - Instructions on what to do if serious symptoms appear
 - Contact information for the school and the local health department
 - The *DHS COVID-19 Fact Sheet* can be used to share some of this information with the student or parent/guardian.
- Be prepared to answer questions that the student or parent/ guardian may have.
- Clean and disinfect the isolation area, student's desk, locker or other areas and surfaces following CDC guidance. A one-page flyer is available.
- Consult with the local health department for next steps.

Adults with COVID-19 infection are more likely than children to have a fever, cough and shortness of breath. However, not all adult cases of COVID-19 include these symptoms. As schools resume in-person instruction, teachers and other school staff should be vigilant in self- monitoring including regular temperature checks.

If a teacher or staff member develops symptoms during the school day consistent with COVID-19 infection described above, they should:

- Report their illness to their supervisor(s) and leave work as soon as possible. It is essential that after the ill person has left, all relevant areas should be cleaned and disinfected following CDC guidance. This includes the isolation area, the staff member's desk or work area, and any other areas and surfaces the teacher had likely touched.
- Maintain at least a 6-foot social distance from others.
- Continue to wear a mask or face covering, if medically possible.
- Perform hand hygiene and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Seek medical evaluation, including COVID-19 or other relevant testing.
- Contact their medical care provider and/or the local health department with any questions.
- Refer to relevant DHS, CDC, and health care provider resources for next steps.
- Be prepared to provide a list of activities and close contacts to the local health department.



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