

# Decision tree for students/staff experiencing symptoms of illness during school



**Lorain County  
Public Health**

For the Health of Us All

Wear PPE when interacting with a symptomatic person.

Do you have any of the following signs and symptoms of illness?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New uncontrolled cough with difficulty breathing (for students with allergy or asthma, a change in cough) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fever (over 100.4°F)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting/diarrhea/abdominal pain |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> New onset severe headache        |

These guidelines are based on current scientific information at the time of publishing and are designed to assist the schools in decision making. They are not meant to diagnose COVID or provide an exclusive course of action.

yes

Have you had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for longer than 15 minutes) with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case?

Have you traveled to an area where large numbers of COVID-19 cases are being reported? (Check ODH COVID-19 travel advisory site)

yes

Send home.  
Refer to healthcare provider for further evaluation and possible testing.

no

Send home.

Negative COVID-19 test.

Positive COVID-19 test  
OR  
No COVID test administered

Return to school after 24 hours fever-free and symptoms improving.

Seek medical evaluation by a health care provider if symptoms worsen.

Isolate at home.

Return to school after:

- 24 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medicines,
- AND 10 days since symptoms started,
- AND symptoms are improving.

The health department may contact you.

Students that receive an alternative diagnosis like strep or seasonal flu should follow provider guidelines on when to return to school.

A negative COVID-19 test or a doctors note may not be necessary to return to school.