



## Frequently Asked Questions

### School Clinic Procedures

2020 – 2021 School Year

#### 1. What illness symptoms should I monitor my student for each day before sending to school?

- Fever (temp >100°F)
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

*\*If your student has any of the signs or symptoms mentioned above or is not feeling well, please keep them home for everyone's safety.*

#### 2. If my student has any of these symptoms at school, what is the protocol?

If a student shows any of the above mentioned signs or symptoms, they will report to the clinic to be assessed by the clinic staff. If the student has a fever, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting, or diarrhea, they will remain masked and placed in the isolation area while a parent/guardian is contacted for student pick up. For other symptoms, such as headache or stomach ache, the student will be assessed and monitored for a short period of time. If symptoms resolve while in the clinic, they can return to class. If they persist, the student will be sent home. No over the counter medications will be given at this time due to the possibility of masking symptoms.

*The new protocol for student pick up: The student must be picked up within 60 minutes of parent notification. This is being implemented to reduce the spread of microorganisms. Please have a plan in place to pick up your student within 60 minutes of notification.*

**3. If my student is sent home from school with communicable symptoms, or if COVID-19 is probable, when are they able to return to school?**

The student will need a written release from a healthcare provider to return to school. The normal quarantine for someone who exhibits signs and symptoms of COVID-19 is 14 days. This is the time frame for the incubation period of the virus. In the average person, symptoms are noticed around the fifth day of exposure, so it is important to quarantine from others in order to stop the spread.

**Returning to school depends on several factors:**

**A. If your student tests positive, your physician tells you that there is a possibility your student is positive, or if they have not been tested for COVID-19 the following protocol would be followed:**

- At least 10 days have passed since they had symptoms **AND**
- No fever (100.0°F) for 3 days without utilizing an over the counter fever reducing medication **AND**
- Their cough or breathing problems are better.

All three of these indicators need to be met to return to school AND the school must be given a letter from a health department or health care provider stating the student is "cleared" to return to school.

**B. If your student is sent home or becomes ill at home, but tests negative for COVID-19, the following protocol will be followed:**

- Stay at home and isolated until feeling better.
- No fever for 24 hours without the help of a fever reducer.
- Follow the guidelines outlined by the primary physician for particular exclusion.
- Written release from a healthcare provider or proof of a negative test is necessary to return to school.

**C. What is the protocol if we live with someone who tests positive for COVID-19?**

Once someone has tested positive for COVID-19, all close contacts would also be quarantined. *Close contact* in regards to COVID-19 is defined as someone who could make you sick because they are within 6 feet of you for more than 15 minutes, could share drinking glasses or eat after each other, physical touching and touching items which could be contaminated. Residing in a family dwelling would be considered close contact and **all members would be quarantined for 14 days.**

Return protocol is as follows:

- Sick individual gets better:
  - a. At least 14 days have passed since they first experienced signs and symptoms
  - b. No fever of 100°F or greater for 3 days without the aid of a fever reducer
  - c. Cough and breathing problems are getting better
- Also 14 days have passed and other household members are symptom free.
- Written release from a healthcare provider is necessary to return to school.

**4. What are some preventative steps I can take as a parent/guardian to help my student avoid contracting COVID-19?**

- Encourage proper handwashing techniques, especially prior to eating.
- Reinforce the need to wear a mask while in public places.
- Be observant of those around you: 6 feet social distancing or coughing/signs of being ill.
- Ask your child how they are feeling and monitor for signs and symptoms of illness.
- Use hand sanitizer when not able to use soap and water.
- Avoid touching your face--especially: nose, mouth, and eyes.

**5. If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, who will have to be quarantined?**

We will be under the guidance of the Pickaway County Public Health (formerly the Health Department) to determine who will have to be quarantined. Seating charts and “student group” charts will be provided so that the investigators at the health department can identify who may have been in close contact with the infected student. Close contact will be defined as being within a 6 foot radius for 15 minutes or more. The PCPH will reach out to families to notify them of the exposure and will follow up with them as needed.

**6. If a student has symptoms and a parent is called to pick up that child, will siblings be required to be picked up as well?**

Yes. When a student is sent home for symptoms of COVID-19, siblings in the district need to be picked up on the same day. Parents/guardians will need to contact a healthcare provider for advice on how to proceed and communicate that outcome with the school nurse.

Questions for the LE nursing staff should be directed to:

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*The School District and Nursing Team are following the guidance and guidelines implemented by the local health department. As time progresses there will be changes to the way the school clinics need to handle the pandemic. Please be patient and understand that every building is tailoring to their particular students' needs. We all want to keep everyone within our school system safe and healthy as we return for the 2020-2021 school year.*