

# WHAT TO DO IF A STUDENT IS SICK FLOW CHART

## STUDENT PRESENTS WITH SYMPTOMS

**High Risk (need 1):** fever/chills (100.4°F), difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, new or worsening cough

**Lower Risk (need 2):** sore throat, congestion/runny nose, headache, body aches, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea.  
*If only one low risk symptom, follow the school illness policy.*

## CONTACT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OR ASSIGNED SCHOOL NURSE TO CONDUCT VERBAL, VISUAL, AND PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT.

### VERBAL:

When did the symptoms start?  
 Any exposure to someone ill?  
 What are your signs and symptoms?

### VISUAL:

Flushed cheeks, difficulty breathing, fatigue, extreme fussiness/agitations, coughing

### PHYSICAL:

>100.4 degrees F  
 <96% pulse oximetry

## VISUAL, VERBAL, AND/OR PHYSICAL CONCERNS IDENTIFIED

NO

OBSERVE FOR 10 MINUTES

IMPROVEMENT?

YES

RETURN TO CLASS

CALL AND NOTIFY PARENTS

NO

ISOLATE AND PREPARE TO SEND HOME

FOLLOW-UP WITH STUDENT/FAMILY, NOTIFY PUBLIC HEALTH FOR SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASE

ARE SYMPTOMS SEVERE? IF SO, CALL 911

## RETURN TO SCHOOL OPTIONS

### TEST FOR COVID-19

#### IF POSITIVE:

- 1) Self-isolate for at least 10 days from date of test **or** when symptoms first started **and**
- 2) fever-free for 24-hours without fever reducing medication **and**
- 3) symptoms improved **and**
- 4) release from isolation has been cleared with Public Health.

#### IF NEGATIVE:

- 1) Fever free for 24-hours without fever-reducing medication **and**
- 2) symptoms have improved

Provide test result to school nurse or administrator.

**CLOSE CONTACTS CAN CONTINUE TO STAY IN SCHOOL PENDING TEST RESULTS\***

- **IF TEST RESULT IS POSITIVE:** Quarantine close contacts and notify Public Health.
- **IF TEST RESULT TAKES >4 DAYS TO RECEIVE:** Quarantine close contacts and notify Public Health to determine next steps.

OR

### ALTERNATE DIAGNOSIS FROM HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

- 1) Fever free for 24-hours without fever-reducing medication **and**
- 2) symptoms have improved

- **Acceptable documentation to be provided to school nurse or administrator**

- Recommend that parents/guardians take student to healthcare provider while still sick or symptomatic.

**CLOSE CONTACTS CAN CONTINUE TO STAY IN SCHOOL\***

\*Per the CDC, Close contacts are defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated, regardless if the contact was wearing a mask ([per CDC Return to School Guidelines](#))

### IF CHILD IS NOT TESTED OR ALTERNATE DIAGNOSIS IS NOT AVAILABLE

**ASSUME STUDENT IS COVID-19 POSITIVE**

- 1) Self-isolate for at least 10 days from when symptoms first started **and**
- 2) fever-free for 24-hours without fever reducing medication **and**
- 3) symptoms improved

**QUARANTINE CLOSE CONTACTS AND NOTIFY PUBLIC HEALTH\***

- Contact Public Health to determine next steps.