

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.

Students with two of the following:

Fever (measured or subjective), chills, cold/shivering, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

OR

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

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.

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 presents a doctor's note.

Symptomatic staff /student who tests negative:

Exclude until fever free 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 the Central District Health Department at (308) 385-5715.