



COVID-19 Symptomatic K-12 Student or Staff Process Flow

To be referenced with the [Public Health Guidance for School Communities During COVID-19](#)

Student or staff present with symptoms*

Symptoms **are** consistent with COVID-19

(see [Example Symptom Screening Tool](#))

Isolate from non-symptomatic students/staff – separate room or separate space in nurse’s office

Send home with referral to healthcare provider

Evaluation by healthcare provider/Investigation and notification by Public Health**

Positive COVID-19 test (case) or person is a close contact to person with COVID-19 – isolate case for 10 days/quarantine contact for 14 days

PA Dept. of Health (DOH)/County-Municipal Health Departments (CMHD) staff contacts individual or parent/ guardian and school entity to provide guidance and recommendations, including isolation for the case and quarantine for close contacts

Return to school***

Symptoms **are not** consistent with COVID-19

Assess using normal school policies

Return to school

* Notifying DOH or CMHD staff is **not necessary** for symptomatic students, staff, and faculty as other non-COVID-19 illnesses may present with similar symptoms. School nurses should contact DOH CMHD staff for further guidance if a parent/guardian/caregiver notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor.

** For staff and students, who are not currently a close contact or quarantined, presenting with symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 may return to school when any one of the following applies:

- **Symptomatic individual/child not tested:** exclude for 10 days from symptom onset AND at least 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms; or
- **Symptomatic individual/child clinically cleared by primary medical doctor, certified school nurse or other health care provider:** exclude until afebrile for 24 hours (if fever present) and symptoms improving; or
- **Symptomatic individual/child with test negative:** exclude until afebrile for 24 hours (if fever present) AND improved respiratory symptoms.

*** There is no need for a “negative test” for student or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 to return to school. Follow public health isolation guidance.