



Office of the State Superintendent of Education

# COVID-19 EXCLUSION AND DISMISSAL CRITERIA AND PROTOCOLS FOR SCHOOLS

## EXCLUSION CRITERIA

A student, staff member, or essential visitor must stay home, or not be admitted, if they:

- Have had any of the following symptoms within the last 24 hours:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fever (subjective or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) or chills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cough</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Congestion or runny nose<sup>1</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or vomiting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Headache</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Muscle or body aches</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Otherwise feeling unwell</li> </ul>
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- Are confirmed to have COVID-19
- Have been in close contact in the last 10 days with an individual confirmed to have COVID-19<sup>2</sup>
- Are awaiting COVID-19 test results, or have a close contact who is awaiting COVID-19 test results
- Have traveled in the last 14 days to any place other than Maryland, Virginia, or a low-risk state, country, or territory, unless they received a negative COVID-19 PCR test after limiting daily activities for at least 3-5 days after returning from the travel

Does the student or staff member have a pre-existing health condition that presents with specific COVID-19 - like symptoms? If a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19, then the individual may not be excluded from entering the school building on the basis of those specific symptoms.

**Note:** If excluded, students (or their parent/guardian), staff, and essential visitors should call their healthcare provider for further directions.

## DISMISSAL CRITERIA

Student, Staff Member, or Essential Visitor Develops Fever or Signs of Illness at School

## DISMISSAL PROTOCOL

### For Students

1. Immediately isolate the student from other students.
  - The student must immediately put on a non-medical (cloth) face covering or surgical mask, if not wearing already.
  - Identify a staff member to accompany the isolated student to the isolation area and supervise the student while awaiting pickup.
  - The staff member(s) briefly responding to the sick student in the classroom, accompanying the student to the isolation area, and supervising the student in the isolation area must comply with PPE requirements.
  - For schools participating in DC Health’s School Health Services Program, the student may be tested for COVID-19 while in the isolation area, provided that they have a testing consent form on file.
2. Notify the student’s parent/guardian of the symptoms and that the student needs to be picked up as soon as possible.
  - Instruct the parent/guardian to seek healthcare provider guidance.
3. Immediately follow cleaning and disinfecting procedures for any area and materials with which the student was in contact.<sup>3</sup>

### For Staff and Essential Visitors

1. Send the staff member or essential visitor home immediately, or isolate until it is safe to go home.
2. Instruct the staff member or essential visitor to seek healthcare provider guidance.
3. Follow cleaning and disinfecting procedures for any area, toys, and equipment with which the staff member or essential visitor was in contact.<sup>3</sup>

### Endnotes

- 1 If the runny nose is circumstantial (e.g., after playing outdoors in cold weather) and temporary (subsides within 30 minutes), and the individual is not experiencing other COVID-19 symptoms nor other criteria for exclusion, then the individual does not need to be excluded. The school nurse may support a determination of whether the runny nose meets criteria for exclusion, if necessary.
- 2 DC Health strongly recommends that individuals who live or work with someone at higher-risk for COVID-19 quarantine for 14 days.
- 3 See Section H. Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sanitization of the Health and Safety Guidance for Schools: COVID-19 Recovery Period for detailed protocols.