



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:\*

- Are age 18 or older** and they are experiencing ANY new or unexplained symptoms from the list below
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New or worsening cough</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fever (measured at 100.4° Fahrenheit or greater, or subjective)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Muscle or body aches</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Headache</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An unusual amount of tiredness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or vomiting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Runny nose or congestion<sup>1</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea</li> </ul>
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- Are younger than 18** and they are experiencing any ONE new or unexplained symptoms in the red box or any TWO new or unexplained symptoms in the blue box

ANY ONE OF THESE RED FLAG SYMPTOMS:	OR AT LEAST TWO (2) OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New or worsening cough</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fever (measured at 100.4° Fahrenheit or greater, or subjective)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Muscle or body aches</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Headache</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An unusual amount of tiredness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or vomiting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Runny nose or congestion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea</li> </ul>

- Are confirmed to have COVID-19
- Have been in close contact in the last 7 days with an individual confirmed to have COVID-19<sup>2</sup>
- Are awaiting COVID-19 test results after symptoms of COVID-19

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

- Have a symptomatic household member who is awaiting COVID-19 test results
- Have traveled in the last 10 days to any place other than Maryland or Virginia, unless they did not attend school for 7 days, got tested for COVID-19 3-5 days after returning to DC, AND received a negative COVID-19 viral test

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 must 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.

\* See page 2 of this document for exceptions for individuals who are fully vaccinated or who have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

### Footnotes

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.

2 Seven-day quarantine is permissible only if the person is tested for COVID-19 on day 5 or later of the quarantine period, and receives a negative test result. If no COVID-19 testing is done, then the individual should not attend school for at least 10 days.

## DISMISSAL CRITERIA

Student, Staff Member, or Essential Visitor Develops Symptoms of COVID-19 (as listed in the Exclusion Criteria section above) while at School

## DISMISSAL PROTOCOL

### For Students

1. Immediately isolate the student from other students.
  - The student should immediately put on a face mask 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 should comply with PPE best practices.
  - For schools participating in a COVID-19 school-based testing program, the student should be tested for COVID-19 while in the isolation area, provided that they have either consented to testing (i.e., opted in) **or** have NOT opted out (if the school is participating in OSSE's COVID-19 school-based testing program through SheildT3).
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. 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>

#### Footnote

<sup>3</sup> See DC Health's Guidance on Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities, available at [coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance), for more information.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Individuals who have Recently Recovered from COVID-19

Provided that they do not currently have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, an individual who has tested positive for **COVID-19 within the last 90 days** may be admitted in the following circumstances:

1. While awaiting COVID-19 test results,
2. After close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19,
3. When a household contact is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or
4. After travel.

Any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should follow the exclusion criteria outlined in this resource.

### Individuals who are Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19

Provided that they do not currently have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, an individual who is **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 may be admitted in the following circumstances:

1. While awaiting COVID-19 test results,
2. After close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19,
3. When a household contact is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or
4. After travel.

A person is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after completion of a COVID-19 vaccination series (after the second dose of a 2-dose series, or after one dose of a single-dose vaccine).

Any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should follow the exclusion criteria outlined in this resource.

SEE ALSO OSSE'S RETURN TO SCHOOL CRITERIA RESOURCE  
AVAILABLE ON THE [OSSE WEBSITE](#).