COVID-19:

When a student, faculty or staff member **can return to school**

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to assist school healthcare staff and public health officials in determining if a student or faculty/staff member needs to be excluded from the facility for COVID-19 **quarantine** or **isolation.** The chart uses three criteria to determine this: close contact, symptoms, and COVID-19 test status.

How to use: The first step is to determine if the individual was a close contact to a COVID-19 case based on the definition below and then selecting the appropriate chart on the next page. The second step is to determine if the individual is showing symptoms of COVID-19 (symptomatic) or not. Finally, determine if the person was tested for COVID-19 and the result of the test. Key definitions are provided below.

Definitions:

Isolation means keeping sick people away from healthy ones. This usually means that the sick person rests in his or her own bedroom or area of your home and stays away from others. This includes staying home from school.

Quarantine means separating people who were around someone who was sick, just in case they get sick. Since people who were around other sick people are more likely to get sick themselves, quarantine prevents them from accidentally spreading the virus to other people even before they realize they are sick. Usually, people who are in **quarantine** stay at home and avoid going out or being around other people. This includes staying home from school.

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Close contact: An individual is considered a close contact if any of following is true:

- Was within 6 feet of a positive person for more than 15 minutes total in a day.
- Had physical contact with the person.
- Had direct contact with the respiratory secretions of the person (i.e., from coughing, sneezing, contact with dirty tissue, shared drinking glass, food, or other personal items).
- Lives with or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person.

These close contact criteria apply regardless of mask use, face shields, or physical barriers, such as Plexiglas or plastic barriers. The only exception is if a healthcare worker in a school setting is wearing the proper personal protective equipment. When an individual's symptom, contact, or test status changes, the **quarantine** or **isolation** requirements should be reassessed.

Symptoms of COVID-19

- **Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth (or school board policy if threshold is lower)**
- **Sore throat**
- **New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/ asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)**
- **Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain**
- **New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever**
- **Loss of taste or smell**

Return to School: Individual is NOT a known close contact to a COVID-19 case

Individual	Symptomatic	No Symptoms
Not tested for COVID-19	• The individual must remain home for at least 10 days since the first symptoms began AND be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours AND with improvement of symptoms. • Siblings and household members should follow the close contact chart below for exclusion. • If diagnosed with another condition that explains the symptoms, such as influenza or strep throat, no isolation or quarantine of close contacts is necessary.	• May attend school.
Tested and negative for COVID-19	• The individual must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, unless advised otherwise by a healthcare provider. • If diagnosed with another condition, the individual must complete the exclusion period for the diagnosed disease.	• May attend school.
Tested and positive for COVID-19	• The individual must **isolate** at home for at least 10 days since the first symptoms began AND be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours AND with improvement in symptoms. • Repeat testing is NOT recommended for making decisions about when people can return to work or school. • Siblings, household members, and other close contacts should follow the close contact chart below.	• Must **isolate** at home for 10 days after the day the sample was collected. • Siblings, household members, and other close contacts should follow the close contact chart below.

Return to School: Individual IS a known close contact to a COVID-19 case

Individual	Symptomatic	No Symptoms
Not tested for COVID-19	• The individual must **quarantine** for 14 days after the last contact with the COVID-19-positive person. • If the exposure is to a household member and the case cannot properly isolate away from others at home, the last date of contact may be the last day of **isolation** for the case. • The individual must also remain home for at least 10 days since the first symptoms began AND be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours AND with improvement of symptoms. • The criteria in both of the above bullets must be met before returning to school. • Siblings, household members, and other close contacts should also follow this chart to determine **quarantine** length.	• Must **quarantine** for 14 days from the date of last exposure before returning to school or day care. • If the exposure is to a household member and the case cannot properly **isolate** away from others at home, the last date of contact may be the last day of **isolation** for the case.
Tested and negative for COVID-19	• If an individual who is a close contact becomes symptomatic, refer to the symptomatic scenarios above. The individual must **quarantine** for 14 days after contact with the COVID-19-positive person, even if the student has an alternate diagnosis for symptoms. If the close contact tests positive, **isolation** starts on the day of symptom onset and isolation may end prior to the last day of **quarantine** or after the 14 days of quarantine.	• Must **quarantine** for 14 days from the date of last exposure before returning to school or day care. • If the exposure is to a household member and the case cannot properly **isolate** away from others at home, the last date of contact may be the last day of **isolation** for the case.
Tested and positive for COVID-19	• The individual must **isolate** at home for at least 10 days since the first symptoms began AND be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours AND with improvement in symptoms. • Repeat testing is NOT recommended for making decisions about when people can return to work or school. • Siblings, household members, and other close contacts should also follow this chart to determine **quarantine** length.	• Must **isolate** at home for 10 days after the day the sample was collected. • Siblings, household members, and other close contacts should follow the close contact chart below.

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