



# Nurse's Notes Regarding COVID-19

Schools must follow DoH and NYSED guidelines for "Return to School" which states that a student who screens positive for COVID-19 symptoms at school will be referred to a health care provider and must provide at a minimum: a doctor's note that clears the student to return to school and a COVID-19 test (with results). The student must stay home until test results come back.



Should a student display COVID symptoms during the school day they will be placed in a supervised isolation area. This area will only be used for those demonstrating COVID symptoms.



Parents/guardians will be contacted and they will need to pick up the student right away.



Parents can check in with a greeter when they arrive.  
Parents will receive a form indicating next steps, which includes a COVID test.



The isolation area and equipment will be thoroughly disinfected after each use.



Screen your children at home each morning before they come to school for any signs of COVID symptoms. Keep your children home until they are feeling better.



If your child has seen a healthcare provider and has a diagnosis with a medication order on file, please have your doctor provide the school with a diagnosis and medication that your child can have if needed to treat his/her symptoms during the school day.



If students are sent home due to any of the COVID symptoms that resemble other illnesses, they **HAVE** to be tested for COVID. They cannot return to school without a negative COVID test.



# Nurse's Notes FAQ page 1

## What guidelines are the school nurses following if staff or students are “symptomatic”?

Answer ~ Schools must follow DoH and NYSED guidelines and will need to rely on parents/guardians screening their child at home each morning before coming to school for signs of illness including careful observation of symptoms of COVID-19.

Any student with a fever of 100°F or greater and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection should not be present in school. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) keep an up to date list of symptoms of Coronavirus on its website.

This list is not all inclusive as some individuals may display other symptoms or none at all. As of 7/13/2020, the following are listed as the most common symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever or chills (100°F or greater)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a student stays home for symptoms, please contact your health care provider for further instructions.

## Where will a symptomatic individual be isolated in the school?

Answer ~ Students who are experiencing COVID symptoms will remain in an isolated area that has access to a restroom and sink until they can be picked up by a parent and taken to a healthcare provider. Adults who are experiencing COVID symptoms will leave immediately to see his/her healthcare provider.

## Will my child be in the isolation area by himself?

Answer ~ The isolation area will have appropriate physical distancing, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, and constant visual supervision.

## If my child fails a daily screening at school, when can she return to school?

Answer ~ After a failed screening, the school district will require, at a minimum, documentation from a health care provider of a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result and symptom resolution.

If the student's COVID test comes back negative the student may return to school when:

- They have seen a Health care provider and have a doctor's note that includes a diagnosis and clears them to return to school.
- There is no fever, without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they felt well for 24 hours.



# Nurse's Notes FAQ page 2

If the student's COVID test comes back positive they will NOT be in school and must stay home until:

- They have been released from isolation from the DoH
- It has been at least 10 days since the student first had symptoms;
- It has been at least three days since the student has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); and
- It has been at least three days since the students symptoms improved including cough and shortness of breath
- The student must have a healthcare provider written note stating they are clear to return to school.

**If my child saw a healthcare provider and was diagnosed with an illness that may include some COVID-19 like symptoms, can my child return to school?**

Answer ~ If your child has seen a healthcare provider and has a diagnoses with a medication order on file, please have your doctor provide the school with a diagnosis and medication that your child can have if needed to treat his/her symptoms during the school day. The nurse can assess the student's symptoms, match the symptoms related to his/her diagnosis, provide the medication as-needed at school per orders on file. If the student feels better s/he can return back to class. If s/he does not feel better and needs to go home, s/he still needs to see a healthcare provider and tested for COVID.