COVID-19 SCHOOL EXCLUSION GUIDANCE
Decision Tree for Schools

Send home or deny entry if ANY of the following symptoms are present:
Fever (100.4°F or higher) OR loss of taste and/or smell OR two or more of the following symptoms: fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain. This is in addition to general infectious disease exclusion guidance. Parents of children who are ill should contact their child’s health care provider. When there is more community transmission, the likelihood that individuals with symptoms actually have COVID-19 is higher. Therefore, symptom screenings may be more helpful when COVID-19 transmission in the community is high. Parents/caregivers should be encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day.

Child is ill, but has seen a health care provider:

**Tested for COVID-19**
Stay home awaiting test results. If positive, stay home at least 10 calendar days from onset of symptoms (or collection date of test if no symptoms) and for 24 hours with no fever (without the use of medication) and improvement of symptoms – whichever is longer. If negative, stay home until fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of medication) and feeling better.

**Clinically diagnosed (not tested) with COVID-19**
Stay home at least 10 calendar days from onset of symptoms and for 24 hours with no fever and improvement of symptoms – whichever is longer.

**Child has a diagnosis from a health care provider of an illness besides COVID-19 (e.g., norovirus, strep throat)**
Follow provider directions/recommended treatment & return guidance. Follow the Child Care and School Infectious Disease Guidance.

**Symptoms listed above**
Stay home at least 10 calendar days from onset and for 24 hours with no fever and improvement of symptoms – whichever is longer.

**Other symptoms not consistent with COVID-19**
Follow the Child Care and School Infectious Disease Guidance.

Child was identified by public health as a close contact to someone with COVID-19:
Regardless if symptoms present or not
Stay home at least 14 calendar days from the last time exposed to a COVID-19 case. Contacts should be tested 7-10 days after last exposure. 14-day quarantine must continue regardless of test result.

* (Blue Box) = Close Contact. Household contacts of confirmed cases need to stay home for case’s 10-day isolation period plus the 14-day quarantine period. Students and staff who tested positive for COVID-19 in the past three months do not need to quarantine if identified as a close contact within 3 months of a positive test.

If both the case and their close contacts were wearing a mask at all times during exposure, then the close contacts would not need to quarantine.

* Siblings & household members also stay home for 14 days from last time exposed to a positive COVID-19 case while contagious.

c (Teal Box) = COVID-19

d (Green box) = Other symptoms

Adapted from the Minnesota Department of Health
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