



COVID-19 Symptomatic K-12 Student or Staff Process Flow

To be referenced with the Public Health Guidance for School Communities During COVID-19

Student or staff present with symptoms*

Symptoms are consistent with COVID-19

(see Example Symptom Screening Tool)

↓
Isolate from non-symptomatic students/staff – separate room or separate space in nurse's office

↓
Send home with referral to healthcare provider

↓
Evaluation by healthcare provider/investigation and notification by Public Health**

↓
Positive COVID-19 test (case) or person is a close contact to person with COVID-19 – isolate case for 10 days/quarantine contact for 14 days

↓
PA Dept. of Health (DOH)/County-Municipal Health Departments (CMHD) staff contacts individual or parent/ guardian and school entity to provide guidance and recommendations, including isolation for the case and quarantine for close contacts

↓
Return to school***

Symptoms are not consistent with COVID-19

↓
Assess using normal school policies

↓
Return to school

** Notifying DOH or CMHD staff is not necessary for symptomatic students, staff, and faculty as other non-COVID-19 illnesses may present with similar symptoms. School nurses should contact DOH CMHD staff for further guidance if a parent/guardian/caregiver notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor.

*** For staff and students, who are not currently a close contact or quarantined, presenting with symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 may return to school when any one of the following applies:

- Symptomatic individual/child not tested: exclude for 10 days from symptom onset AND at least 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms; or
- Symptomatic individual/child clinically cleared by primary medical doctor, certified school nurse or other health care provider; exclude until afebrile for 24 hours (if fever present) and symptoms improving; or
- Symptomatic individual/child with test negative: exclude until afebrile for 24 hours (if fever present) AND improved respiratory symptoms.

*** There is no need for a "negative test" for student or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 to return to school. Follow public health isolation guidance.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Example School Symptom Screening

Tool

Complete Daily Prior to School/Work*

Employee or Student Name:

Assigned Class/Group:

Temperature:

Are you/is the student taking any medication to treat or reduce a fever such as Ibuprofen (i.e. Advil Motrin) or Acetaminophen (Tylenol)?

Are you/is the student experiencing any of the following?

Group A 1 or more symptoms	Group B 2 or more symptoms
Cough Shortness of breath Difficulty breathing New olfactory disorder New taste disorder	Fever (measured or subjective) Chills Rigors Myalgia Headache Sore throat Nausea or vomiting Diarrhea Fatigue Congestion or runny nose

Stay home if, you or the student:

Have one or more symptoms in Group A **OR**

Have two or more symptoms in Group B **OR**

Are taking fever reducing medication.

**May be utilized as a screening tool for both at home and on-site screening practices.*