

Black Hawk Area Special Education District

School District Protocol: Quarantine, Exclusion and Return to School

The phrase “COVID-19 symptoms” in this protocol refers to the following: fever of at least 100.4 degrees, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

According to the IDPH, “close contact” means being within six feet of an infected person for fifteen minutes or more (regardless of whether the individuals were wearing masks) starting from 2 days before symptom onset or a positive test if asymptomatic.

The CDC’s definition of “close contact” is in line with the IDPH and also includes having direct physical contact with an infected person, sharing eating or drinking utensils with an infected person and being directly exposed to respiratory droplets of an infected person.

Report of COVID-19 Symptoms Before or After School

Exclusion

If a parent/guardian (on behalf of a student) or staff member reports experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 before or after school or during the screening process, they should not be permitted to enter or remain in the school building and should be directed to contact a health care provider.

Based on the IDPH/CDC definition of “close contact,” individuals who were within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 *symptoms* even for more than 15 minutes would not necessarily have to self-isolate absent another epidemiological reason.

Return to School

A symptomatic student or staff member cannot return to school until:

- At least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms AND they have been fever free (without medication) for 24 hours AND the respiratory symptoms have improved;

OR

- They have had two negative COVID-19 tests taken at least 24 hours apart; AND they are fever free (without medication) AND the respiratory symptoms have improved.

We are waiting for confirmation from ISBE/IDPH that a symptomatic individual does not need to self-isolate if a doctor certifies that the symptom is unrelated to COVID-19.

Report of COVID-19 Symptoms During the School Day

Quarantine at School

If a student or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, they must be immediately separated from the rest of the school population. Schools must designate areas of the building for use as quarantine areas for this purpose. Students who report or are observed

experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should be sent to one of the quarantine areas. A staff member must be assigned to supervise the student while in the quarantine area and must not leave the student alone. The staff member should, to the extent possible, maintain at least 6 feet of distance from the student at all times. The student's parent/guardian should be contacted to arrange to pick up the student from school and directed to contact a health care provider. The student should remain in the quarantine area until he or she can be sent home safely. The District will not allow use of school buses or public transportation to send a student home when exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms at school.

If a staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms during the school day and is well enough to drive home, the staff member should be sent home immediately and directed to contact a health care provider. If the staff member is not well enough to drive or cannot otherwise get home safely, the staff member must quarantine in one of the designated areas until arrangements can be made for the staff member to leave school. Supervision of a quarantined staff member is not required.

The Principal will identify, for the staff, the quarantine space(s) in the school building. The school nurse, or administrator or designee in the absence of nursing professionals, will have the discretion to determine who is placed in such quarantine spaces and the level of supervision required. Teachers should report any observation of symptomatic students to the school nurse, administrator or designee. The school nurse will document any student or staff member placed in the quarantine space.

The quarantine spaces have been set up to reduce the risk of transmission:

- Plastic barriers or curtains have been placed in designated health office spaces to separate individuals with illness symptoms from those without illness symptoms.
- Quarantine spaces have been designed to allow for 6 feet of social distancing between individuals and to provide restroom access and access to an exterior door, where possible, to avoid the need for a sick individual to move through the building to exit.
- When interacting with individuals in quarantine spaces, school nurses and/or the administrator or designee treating the individual will wear appropriate PPE, including gloves and face coverings. The District will provide this additional PPE to all employees.
- Additionally, treating staff will utilize appropriate hand hygiene and will follow standard precautions for patient care, as outlined by the CDC.

The District will also close off any areas used by the sick individual and will not permit use of those areas until after proper cleaning and disinfection. Windows will be opened, when possible, to increase air circulation in the area. The District will wait at least 24 hours prior to cleaning and disinfecting the area; if waiting 24 hours is not possible, the District will clean and disinfect the area after waiting as long as possible. All areas that were used by the individual who was sick will be cleaned and disinfected. The potentially infected area(s) will only be opened for use once proper cleaning and disinfecting has occurred.

Based on the IDPH/CDC definition of “close contact,” individuals who were within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 *symptoms* even for more than 15 minutes would not necessarily have to self-isolate absent another epidemiological reason.

Return to School

A symptomatic student or staff member cannot return to school until:

- At least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms AND they have been fever free (without medication) for 24 hours AND the respiratory symptoms have improved;

OR

- They have had two negative COVID-19 tests taken at least 24 hours apart; AND they are fever free (without medication) AND the respiratory symptoms have improved.

We are waiting for confirmation from ISBE/IDPH that a symptomatic individual does not need to self-isolate if a doctor certifies that the symptom is unrelated to COVID-19.

Diagnosis of COVID-19

Exclusion

Students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 must be excluded from school and all school activities until they have met the requirements identified below for returning to school.

Students and staff who were in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with the individual who tested positive during the two days preceding the positive test or onset of symptoms must also be excluded from school to self-isolate for 14 days from the date of exposure and monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and should be directed to contact a health care provider.

Subject to State and local guidance, if a school is able to maintain a distance of 6 feet between all students and staff throughout the day, including in classrooms and on buses, then only the individual who tests positive for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate.

Return to School

A symptomatic student/staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 cannot return to school until:

- At least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms AND they have been fever free (without medication) for 24 hours AND the respiratory symptoms have improved;

OR

- They have had two negative COVID-19 tests taken at least 24 hours apart; AND they are fever free (without medication) AND the respiratory symptoms have improved.

A non-symptomatic student/staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 cannot return to school until:

- Ten days after the positive test, provided that the student/staff member does not develop symptoms during that period. If the student/staff member develops symptoms, he/she must meet the criteria identified above.

OR

- They have had two negative COVID-19 tests taken at least 24 hours apart.

Report of Close Contact with an Individual with COVID-19 Outside of School

If a student or staff member has been in close contact with an individual, outside of school, who tests positive for or is suspected of having COVID-19, the student or staff member must self-isolate at home for 14 days after exposure. No one else in the school is required to self-isolate under such circumstances.