



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to start by saying how excited we are to have students returning to The Center. We need to notify you before their return that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has given us strict mandates on how to address student illness

- If your student has ONE symptom of COVID- 19 they must stay home from school for 10 days from the start of the symptoms. COVID-19 symptoms include: Fever (100.4°F or higher), headache, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, new loss of sense of taste or smell, fatigue, muscle or body aches. They may return to school earlier if they have been seen by their doctor and you have been given a doctor's note that provides an alternative diagnosis.
- If your student is sent home sick with a COVID-19 symptom they must stay home for 10 days unless you have a doctor's note listing an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID test.
- If someone in your household has COVID like symptoms, your student must stay home for 14 days, or until an alternative diagnosis is made by a physician and documentation is given to the school.
- If someone in your household OR someone who has had close contact with your student is diagnosed with COVID-19, your student must stay home for at least 14 days from the day they were last exposed.
- All student absences MUST be called in to (309) 792-6100. When your student is called in you must provide a reason for their absence. Students that return to school after an unexplained absence will be quarantined in the nurse's office until a family member can be reached to verify the reason of the absence.
- Unfortunately preexisting conditions that may cause a COVID-19 symptom (such as a cough caused by asthma or allergies) cannot be taken into consideration by our school nurses at this time. If your student has one symptom of COVID-19 they will be sent home.

Please make sure the school has a correct phone number where you can be reached and that your emergency contacts list is up to date. Students being sent home sick will need to be picked up within 30 minutes of exhibiting COVID symptoms. Thank you for your patience and cooperation with the IDPH and ISBE mandates. Due to unique needs and health conditions of the students at The Center, we are strictly adhering to these mandates. Please reach out to us if you have any questions over this information. The Center nursing staff will be working with each family individually as students become ill.

Thank you,
America Bunker and Kelly Hoppman,
Black Hawk Area Education Center School Nurse

