

# DCHHS COVID-19 Screening Tool for K-12 School Settings

Section 1: Symptom Screening		Section 2: Close Contact* / Potential Exposure
<b>In the past 24 hours, has the student had any of the following symptoms?</b>		<b>In the past 14 days, has the student had any...</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1-A</b></p> <p><i>These symptoms indicate a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and put them at risk for spreading illness to others (<a href="#">CDC</a>)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Temperature 100.4° F or higher (<a href="#">CDC</a>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>New</b> uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (<i>for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, or abdominal pain</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1-B</b></p> <p><i>Milder symptoms which may indicate possible COVID</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Congestion or runny nose</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Muscle or Body aches</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>KNOWN EXPOSURES?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>2-A.</b> Had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with a person infected with COVID-19?</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>POTENTIAL EXPOSURES?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>2-B.</b> Travel to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>2-C.</b> Lives in an area of high community transmission while the school remains open? **</p>
<b>If answers:</b>	<b>Recommend:</b>	<b>When can the student return to school?</b>
<p><b>YES</b> – to <i>any</i> symptom in <b>Section 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p><b>NO</b> – to <i>every</i> question in <b>Section 2</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excuse from school in accordance with the existing school illness management policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return in accordance with existing <a href="#">Texas Administrative Code</a> and routine school illness management policy (e.g., after symptom-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications).</li> <li>• <b>No documentation required for return to school</b>, other than in accordance with the school's existing routine illness policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>YES</b> – to <i>any</i> symptom in <b>Section 1-A</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p><b>YES</b> – to <b>Section 2</b> questions <b>2-B</b> or <b>2-C</b> (<i>High community transmission</i>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p><b>NO</b> – to <b>2-A</b> (<i>NOT a close contact</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusion from campus</li> <li>• Refer for evaluation by their healthcare provider and <i>possible</i> testing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a student has a <b>negative PCR test result for COVID-19</b>, they may return to school once their symptoms have otherwise improved in accordance with existing school illness management policies. (<a href="#">CDC</a>)</li> <li>• <b>Documentation of negative COVID-19 PCR test obtained <i>after</i> symptom onset <u>is</u> required to return to school.</b></li> </ul> <div style="background-color: #ffff00; padding: 5px;"> <p>If a student has a <b>positive COVID-19 test result</b> (PCR <i>or</i> rapid antigen test—regardless of presence of symptoms):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Student must <u>isolate</u> (stay at home).</b> Must follow the <a href="#">isolation guidance</a> issued by the CDC.</li> <li>• School nurse or designated school official must <b><i>immediately</i></b> report the case to health department (DCHHS).***</li> <li>• The student <b>may return to school when <u>all 3 of the following criteria are met</u>:</b> (<a href="#">TEA 8/4/20</a>)                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); AND</b></li> <li>2. <b>The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); AND</b></li> <li>3. <b>At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>• <b>Documentation by a medical professional is not required for return to school.</b></li> </ul> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a student has symptoms, but they <b>were <u>not evaluated</u></b> by a medical professional or <b>were not tested</b>, such a student is assumed to have COVID-19, and the student may not return to the campus until they have met the same 3-step criteria above. Documentation by a medical professional is not required for return to school. (<a href="#">TEA</a>)</li> <li>• If this student wants to return to school <b><i>before</i></b> completing the 10 days stay at home, the student must <b><i>either</i></b>:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the student for return based on an <a href="#">alternative diagnosis</a>, OR</li> <li>(b) obtain an FDA-approved PCR test for COVID-19 infection that is negative. <b>Documentation of negative PCR test <u>is</u> required for return to school.</b> Testing locations can be found here: <a href="https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/">https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/</a></li> </ol> </li> </ul>

(v.8/10/20) Based on CDC Screening K-12 Students, 7/23/20: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html)

# DCHHS COVID-19 Screening Tool for K-12 School Settings

If answers:	Recommend:	When can the student return to school?
<p><b>YES</b> – to <i>any</i> symptom in <b>Section 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p><b>YES</b> – to <b>2-A (Close Contact)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusion from campus</li> <li>• Refer for evaluation by their healthcare provider and possible testing. Testing is recommended for all close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Symptomatic close contacts</b> who have a <b>positive</b> (PCR test or rapid antigen) <b>test for COVID-19</b> must follow the <a href="#">isolation guidance</a> issued by the CDC, and may not return until the 3-step criteria to discontinue isolation is met. (<a href="#">TEA 8/4/20</a>)</li> <li>• <b>Symptomatic close contacts</b> who have a <b>negative PCR test</b> for COVID-19 <b>OR</b> for whom PCR testing was <b>not done</b>, should not return to campus until they have <b>at least completed self-quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure</b> to the COVID-19 positive individual.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Additionally</b>, symptomatic close contacts for whom PCR testing was never done, must also <a href="#">self-isolate</a> at home for <b>at least 10 days</b> since symptoms first appeared—<b>whichever is longer</b>, before they can return to school. Before returning to school, they must also have been fever free for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medications) and have had at least 72 hours of improvement in symptoms.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Documentation by a medical professional is not required for return to school.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>NO</b> – to <i>every</i> symptom in <b>Section 1 (Asymptomatic)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p><b>YES</b> – to <b>2-A (Close Contact)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusion from campus</li> <li>• Refer for evaluation by their healthcare provider and possible testing. Testing is recommended for all close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Asymptomatic</b> close contacts should continue to <a href="#">self-quarantine</a> at home for <b>14 days from their last exposure</b> to the COVID-19 positive individual, <b>even if they receive a negative test result for COVID-19.</b></li> <li>• Persons in quarantine should <a href="#">monitor their health daily</a>, and watch for fever, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19. If possible, they should stay away from others, especially persons who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.</li> <li>• Individuals who develop <b>symptoms</b> of possible COVID-19 infection <i>during</i> their quarantine period should be referred for evaluation by their healthcare provider and for possible testing for COVID-19, and follow the <a href="#">isolation guidance</a> issued by the CDC. (<i>See above</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Documentation by a medical professional is not required for return to school.</b></li> </ul>

\* **“Close contact”** is operationally defined by the CDC as “being within **6 feet or less** of a confirmed COVID-19 case for at least **15 minutes** or more while contagious, irrespective of whether a cloth face covering was worn. An individual is deemed contagious starting 2 days before their symptom onset through at least 10 days after onset of symptoms. If the case is asymptomatic, then the timeframe of contagiousness starts from 2 days prior to the date of the test, through at least 10 days. Brief interactions are less likely to result in transmission; however, symptoms and the type of interaction (e.g., did the infected person cough directly into the face of the exposed individual) remain important.” ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html))

\*\* [Dallas County Health and Human Services COVID-19 Risk Level](#)

\*\*\* Confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 of staff or students are required to be reported immediately to Dallas County Health and Human Services. Case reporting can be completed by phone to DCHHS at (214) 819-1949 or after-hours to (877) 605-2660, by fax to (214) 819-1933, or by encrypted email to [SchoolHealth@dallascounty.org](mailto:SchoolHealth@dallascounty.org),

[Case Report Forms](#) can be downloaded from the DCHHS website. Information needed in communications about cases includes:

- a) School: District, Name of School, Point of Contact information (name, email and phone number)
- b) Testing result, date/site of lab test for COVID-19 case
- c) Case name, DOB, symptom onset date
- d) Guardian: Name, phone number, address

# Daily Home Screening for Students

*Parents: Please complete this short check each morning and report your child's information [INSERT YOUR SCHOOL REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS] in the morning before your child leaves for school.*

## SECTION 1: Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

	Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
	Sore throat
	New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
	Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
	New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

## SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

	Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
	Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases as described in the <a href="#">Community Mitigation Framework</a>
	Live in areas of high community transmission (as described in the <a href="#">Community Mitigation Framework</a> ) while the school remains open



# COVID-19: Quarantine vs. Isolation

**QUARANTINE** keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.



**If you had close contact with a person who has COVID-19**



- Stay home until 14 days after your last contact.



- Check your temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.



- If possible, stay away from people who are at higher-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

**ISOLATION** keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.



**If you are sick and think or know you have COVID-19**



- Stay home until after
  - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
  - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
  - Symptoms have improved



**If you tested positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms**



- Stay home until after
  - 10 days have passed since your positive test



If you live with others, stay in a specific “sick room” or area and away from other people or animals, including pets. Use a separate bathroom, if available.



# 10 things you can do to manage your COVID-19 symptoms at home

Accessible Version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

## If you have possible or confirmed COVID-19:

- 1. Stay home** from work and school. And stay away from other public places. If you must go out, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.



- 6. Cover your cough and sneezes.**



- 2. Monitor your symptoms** carefully. If your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately.



- 7. Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



- 3. Get rest and stay hydrated.**



- 8.** As much as possible, **stay** in a specific room and **away from other people** in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a cloth face covering.



- 4.** If you have a medical appointment, **call the healthcare provider** ahead of time and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.



- 9. Avoid sharing personal items** with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.



- 5.** For medical emergencies, call 911 and **notify the dispatch personnel** that you have or may have COVID-19.



- 10. Clean all surfaces** that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

# Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have COVID-19, follow the steps below to care for yourself and to help protect other people in your home and community.

## Stay home except to get medical care.

- **Stay home.** Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and are able to recover at home without medical care. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- **Take care of yourself.** Get rest and stay hydrated. Take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen, to help you feel better.
- **Stay in touch with your doctor.** Call before you get medical care. Be sure to get care if you have trouble breathing, or have any other emergency warning signs, or if you think it is an emergency.
- **Avoid public transportation,** ride-sharing, or taxis.



## Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.

- **As much as possible, stay in a specific room** and away from other people and pets in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people or animals in or outside of the home, wear a cloth face covering.
- See **COVID-19 and Animals if you have questions about pets:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#COVID19animals>
- Additional guidance is available for those **living in close quarters.** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-hj-ncov/daily-life-coping/living-in-close-quarters.html>) and **shared housing** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/shared-housing/index.html>).



## Monitor your symptoms.

- **Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath but other symptoms may be present as well.**
- **Follow care instructions from your healthcare provider and local health department.** Your local health authorities will give instructions on checking your symptoms and reporting information.



## When to Seek Emergency Medical Attention

Look for **emergency warning signs\*** for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, **seek emergency medical care immediately:**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Bluish lips or face
- Inability to wake or stay awake

\*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

## Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility:

Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

## Call ahead before visiting your doctor.

- **Call ahead.** Many medical visits for routine care are being postponed or done by phone or telemedicine.
- **If you have a medical appointment that cannot be postponed, call your doctor's office,** and tell them you have or may have COVID-19.



## If you are sick, wear a cloth covering over your nose and mouth.

- **You should wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth** if you must be around other people or animals, including pets (even at home).
- You don't need to wear the cloth face covering if you are alone. If you can't put on a cloth face covering (because of trouble breathing for example), cover your coughs and sneezes in some other way. Try to stay at least 6 feet away from other people. This will help protect the people around you.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2 years, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is not able to remove the covering without help.



**Note:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical grade facemasks are reserved for healthcare workers and some first responders. You may need to make a cloth face covering using a scarf or bandana.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## Cover your coughs and sneezes.

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Throw used tissues** in a lined trash can.
- **Immediately wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



## Clean your hands often.

- **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Use hand sanitizer** if soap and water are not available. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- **Soap and water are the best option**, especially if your hands are visibly dirty.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



## Avoid sharing personal household items.

- **Do not share** dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home.
- **Wash these items thoroughly after using them** with soap and water or put them in the dishwasher.



## Clean all "high-touch" surfaces everyday.

- **Clean and disinfect** high-touch surfaces in your "sick room" and bathroom. Let someone else clean and disinfect surfaces in common areas, but not your bedroom and bathroom.
- **If a caregiver or other person needs to clean and disinfect** a sick person's bedroom or bathroom, they should do so on an as-needed basis. The caregiver/other person should wear a cloth face covering and wait as long as possible after the sick person has used the bathroom.



High-touch surfaces include phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.

- **Clean and disinfect areas that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.**
- **Use household cleaners and disinfectants.** Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then use a household disinfectant.
  - Be sure to follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Many products recommend keeping the surface wet for several minutes to ensure germs are killed. Many also recommend precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
  - Most EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.

## When you can be around others after you had or likely had COVID-19

When you can be around others (end home isolation) depends on different factors for different situations.



### • I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms

- You can be with others after
  - 3 days with no fever**AND**
  - symptoms improved**AND**
  - 10 days since symptoms first appeared
- Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. If you will be tested, you can be around others when you have no fever, symptoms have improved, and you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

### • I tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms

- If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after:
  - 10 days have passed since test
- Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. If you will be tested, you can be around others after you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.
- If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the guidance above for "I think or know I had COVID, and I had symptoms."



