

## Updated Protocol 8-26-2020

Dear Families:

One thing we have said since this pandemic began is that the only constant is change. We have received updated protocol from the Indiana Department of Health about how to deal with symptoms. We understand that the strict “stay at home” protocol is a challenge to families, and we are grateful for your patience and understanding.

We are sharing the documents in their entirety, but to quickly summarize: symptoms have been clarified (some symptoms that previously excluded students, like a stuffy nose, have been removed), a student can return to school after receiving a negative test (before they also had to be cleared by a doctor), and the final big change is that if one student in the family is excluded from school because they are symptomatic, all siblings in the family are excluded.

Specifically, here is what is new:

- Person of interest and anyone who lives in the same household should quarantine while waiting for test results
- Anyone with a negative test who is not a close contact may return to school if:
  - Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications
  - Symptoms resolved.
  - No doctor’s note required.

Symptoms:

- Temperature 100.0 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
- Loss of taste or smell
- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 who had a negative test and is not a close contact of someone with confirmed COVID-19 may return to school:
  - Must be 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications
  - Other symptoms resolved
  - No doctor’s note required
  - If also a close contact, must complete 14-day quarantine
- Anyone with symptoms who is not tested must isolate, and anyone in the household (including siblings) are considered close contacts and must quarantine.
- If a someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 tests positive or does NOT get tested for COVID-19, then siblings and household members should be considered close contacts and advised to quarantine. If the symptomatic person without a positive test is diagnosed with another condition that explains the symptoms, or tests negative, then no quarantine for close contacts is necessary

- If not tested, a provider's note with alternate diagnosis will be needed to return to school.
- A symptomatic person and anyone living in their household should quarantine while waiting for test results.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding.

We wish you well.

Mary Roberson