



The following document was developed collaboratively between the school districts of McLean County and the Mclean County Health Department (MCHD). This is intended to be a guidance document and is reflective of the information currently available. It is important to realize that the information may change as new data becomes available. You should still contact your healthcare provider, school nurse, and the local health department (LHD) in the event of a COVID-related exposure.

Common Definitions

COVID-19 symptoms or COVID-like symptoms: Fever (100.4 degrees or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle and/or body aches.

Outbreak: Five or more positive cases within the same class/classroom that occur within 14 days of each other.

Close Contact: Individuals who have been within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative period of fifteen minutes or more (regardless of whether the individuals were wearing masks) starting 2 calendar days before the individual has symptoms or (if asymptomatic) 2 calendar days prior to the positive test collection. The CDC, IDPH, and MCHD also include 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.

Isolation at School: Separation of a student or staff member at school in a room designated for assessment of COVID-19 symptoms.

Isolation at Home: Staying at home when a student or staff member is sick with COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19.

Quarantine: Staying at home when a student or staff member has been in close contact (as defined above) with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19.

Note: For the health and safety of our school community, please notify the school as soon as possible with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 or COVID-like symptoms.

Report of COVID-19 Symptoms Before School

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

The following guidance outlines procedures for those who develop symptoms before the start of a new school day:

- Remain at home. Students or staff members with symptoms and **all household members** should not come to campus.
- Call the school to report the absence. Please report all symptoms and the date of their onset.
- Contact your child's healthcare provider. He/she will provide guidance regarding evaluation and/or testing.
 - Current IDPH guidance states that all students and staff sent home with COVID-like symptoms should be diagnostically tested and should remain home until they receive the test results.
- Contact the school nurse to report the course of action your healthcare provider recommends. If your child will be tested, he/she **and all household members** must remain home while waiting for test results. The school nurse must be contacted with the test results and before returning to campus:
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Report of COVID-19 Symptoms During the School Day

Isolate at School, Isolate at Home, or Quarantine

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. CCA has designated areas of the building for this purpose. Students who report or are observed experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should be sent to one of the Isolate at School areas. A staff member will don appropriate personal protective equipment and will supervise the symptomatic student while he/she awaits pickup. 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 will be contacted to arrange pickup of the student **and all household members** from campus. Staff will direct the parent/guardian to contact a healthcare provider. The school will not allow use of school or staff-owned vehicles for the transportation of symptomatic students or staff members.

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 healthcare provider. If the staff member is not well enough to drive or cannot otherwise get home safely, the staff member must Isolate at School in one of the designated areas until arrangements can be made for the staff member to leave school. Direct, constant supervision of an isolated staff member is not required.

The school nurse (or, in the absence of the school nurse, the Head of School or division principal) will determine who is placed in Isolate at School 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 or division principal will document any student or staff member placed in the designated space.

The Isolate at School spaces have been set up to reduce the risk of transmission. When interacting with individuals in these spaces, school nurses and/or the administrator or designee treating the individual will wear appropriate PPE. The school will provide this additional PPE to all employees. Additionally, health services staff will utilize appropriate hand hygiene and will follow standard precautions for patient care, as outlined by the CDC. The school will properly clean and disinfect areas used by the symptomatic person. As much as possible, increased air circulation in the area will be provided.

The following guidance outlines procedures that will be taken when a student or staff member develops symptoms during the school day:

- An adult will inform the school nurse or building principal of a student or staff member with symptoms.
- The symptomatic student or staff member will be directed to the isolation area.
- The school nurse, building principal, or other staff member designated by the principal will immediately report to the isolation area, don appropriate PPE, and assess the student or staff member.
- The student's parent/guardian will be notified of their child's symptoms and will be asked to pick up the symptomatic student and all household members from campus.
- The student will be monitored by the nurse, building principal, or other designated staff member until the parent/guardian arrives.
- The student's parent/guardian will be advised to contact their child's healthcare provider for guidance regarding evaluation and/or testing, based on the individual's symptoms.

Return to Campus After Exhibiting or Being Exposed to Someone Exhibiting Symptoms of COVID-19

A licensed healthcare provider and/or the local health department (LHD) should provide guidance regarding return to campus. Below are current guidelines set forth by the CDC and IDPH.

A student or staff member exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may return to campus when:

- A healthcare provider or the LHD has determined that the student or staff member does not have COVID-19.
 - Per IDPH, a healthcare provider's note documenting the alternative diagnosis **OR** documentation of a negative COVID-19 test result should accompany a student or staff member returning to campus after experiencing COVID-like symptoms.
 - If it has been determined by a healthcare provider that a student or staff member is experiencing symptoms of an illness other than COVID-19, they must meet the criteria for returning to campus for the illness with which they have been diagnosed. IDPH guidance states that they should remain home until they meet the following criteria:
 - 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication
 - 24 hours vomiting/diarrhea-free
 - No signs of respiratory infection, including frequent cough
 - No signs of a rash of unknown origin
 - No unusual, pronounced fatigue
- A student or staff member who has tested positive may return to campus with guidance from their healthcare provider and the LHD.
 - Current guidelines for returning to campus after testing positive for COVID-19:
 - At least 10 calendar days have passed after the onset of symptoms **AND** they have been fever-free (without medication) for 24 hours **AND** the symptoms have improved.
 - A Release from Isolation letter, provided by the LHD, has been submitted to the school nurse.
 - The school nurse must be contacted prior to returning to campus.
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An asymptomatic student or staff member who was exposed to someone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may return to campus when:

- The symptomatic individual receives an alternate diagnosis from a healthcare provider or a negative COVID-19 test result.
- If the asymptomatic student/staff member is identified as a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case, the LHD will provide guidance regarding return to campus.
 - Current guidelines for returning to campus after identification as a close contact:

- Quarantine at home for 14 calendar days after last exposure to the COVID-19 case **AND** no COVID-19 symptoms develop during the quarantine period.
 - A Release from Quarantine letter, provided by the LHD, must be presented to the school nurse.
- The school nurse must be contacted prior to returning to campus.
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Positive Diagnosis of COVID-19

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 campus. Students and staff who were in close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more cumulatively over a 24-hour period) with the COVID-positive individual during the two calendar days preceding the positive test or onset of symptoms must also be excluded from school to quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the positive case. Close contacts who are unable to avoid exposure to the positive case (i.e. household members) will begin their quarantine period when the positive case is released from isolation by the local health department (LHD). Individuals quarantined as close contacts should be directed to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and contact a healthcare provider.

Guidance for parents/guardians of students who have tested positive for COVID-19:

- Stay home and follow guidance from your child’s healthcare provider and the LHD. The LHD will contact parents/guardians as part of the contact tracing process to gather information and to provide guidance regarding when the COVID-positive individual may return to school.
- Contact the school nurse to report your child’s positive test results.
- For the safety of our school community, parents must be in direct communication with the school nurse prior to the previously COVID-positive person’s return to campus.
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Return to Campus After Positive Diagnosis of COVID-19

Your healthcare provider and the local health department (LHD) will provide guidance regarding return to campus. Below are current guidelines set forth by the CDC and IDPH.

Symptomatic students/staff members who test positive for COVID-19 may return to campus when:

- At least 10 calendar days have passed after the onset of symptoms **AND** they have been fever-free (without medication) for 24 hours **AND** symptoms have improved.
- A Release from Isolation letter, provided by the LHD, has been presented to the school nurse.
- The school nurse must be contacted prior to returning to campus.
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Non-symptomatic students/staff members who test positive for COVID-19 may return to school when:

- At least 10 calendar days have passed after the positive test collection, provided that the student/staff member does not develop symptoms during that period. **If the student/staff member develops symptoms**, they must follow guidance from their healthcare provider and the LHD, and must meet the criteria listed for “Symptomatic students/staff members who test positive for COVID-19” (listed above) before returning to campus.
- A Release from Isolation letter, provided by the LHD, has been presented to the school nurse.
- The school nurse must be contacted prior to returning to campus.
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Report of Close Contact to a Confirmed or Probable COVID-19 Case

If a student or staff member has been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes cumulatively) with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case, the local health department (LHD) will provide guidance regarding return to campus.

- Current guidelines for returning to campus after identification as a close contact:
 - Quarantine at home for 14 calendar days after last exposure to the COVID-19 case **AND** no COVID-19 symptoms develop during the quarantine period.
 - School administration will determine on a case-by-case basis whether a shortened quarantine period is appropriate, in accordance with IDPH quarantine guidelines published at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/quarantine-guidance>.
 - A Release from Quarantine letter, provided by the LHD, must be presented to the school nurse.
- The school nurse must be contacted prior to returning to campus.
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There are currently no restrictions for those who have been in contact with an asymptomatic individual who has been identified by the LHD as a close contact. According to the IDPH and the MCHD, a student or staff member who was **not** in close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case does not need to quarantine.

Absence of Diagnostic Testing or Clinical Evaluation

According to IDPH, students and staff members with COVID-like symptoms who do not undergo testing for COVID-19 and who do not provide a healthcare provider's note documenting an alternative diagnosis, must complete 10 calendar days of isolation after the date of first symptom onset **AND** be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND** other symptoms must have improved before returning to campus. Household members of the symptomatic student or staff member must quarantine 14 calendar days after last exposure and remain symptom-free before returning to campus.

Response to Reported Health Metrics

In collaboration with the MCHD, CCA administrators and health service providers will closely monitor county-level metrics to aid in making decisions related to the continuance of in-person instructional delivery. The following situations could result in a pivot to fully remote instructional delivery:

1. Local COVID-19 positivity rate over 10%
2. More than 100 new cases per 100,000 people
3. More than 80% of local hospitals' ICU beds occupied
4. Significant increase in number of COVID-related emergency department admissions

When any three of the four metrics listed above hit a warning threshold, CCA will consider pivoting to school-wide remote learning. We will also take into consideration the number/and or percentage of students and staff in our district that are confirmed or probable COVID-19 positives as part of the decision to move to remote instructional delivery. An "adaptive pause" (short-term remote learning plan) may be implemented when it seems probable that metrics will improve within a short period of time. In the event that school metrics fall under the MCHD/IDPH definition of an "outbreak," an adaptive pause may be instituted in order to conduct deep cleaning prior to reopening.