

Symptom-Based Exclusion Guidelines

Students and staff should be excluded from the school setting if they exhibit:

1. ***PRIMARY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19:** Refer to [Resiliency Framework and Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools](#).
 - **If 1 primary symptom, MAY RETURN AFTER**
 - 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, **and** other symptoms are improving, if COVID-19 test is negative or not tested
 - OR 5-day isolation, if COVID-19 test is positive
 - **If 2+ primary symptoms, MAY RETURN AFTER**
 - 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, **and** other symptoms are improving, if COVID-19 test is negative
 - AND 5-day isolation, if COVID-19 test is positive or not tested

NON-PRIMARY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19: Refer to [Resiliency Framework and Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools](#).

- **Exclusion may not be required in all cases.**
- **Case-by-case assessment and consideration of local disease risks are encouraged, in collaboration with health professionals such as school nurse and LPHA as applicable.**

Anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result should be excluded for 5 days (5 days after symptom onset, or 5 days after test date if no symptoms).

Fully vaccinated individuals with symptoms of illness should follow above guidance unless otherwise advised by LPHA and OHA statewide posted notices.

2. ***FEVER:** a measured temperature equal to or greater than 100.4°F orally. Temperature checked via other routes should be considered fever if equivalent to 100.4°F orally.
 - **MAY RETURN AFTER** fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine **AND** per guidance for primary COVID-19 symptoms.
3. ***COUGH:** persistent cough that is not yet diagnosed and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider **OR** any acute (non-chronic) cough illness **OR** cough that is frequent or severe enough to interfere with participation in usual school activities.
 - **MAY RETURN AFTER** symptoms improving for 24 hours (no cough or cough is well-controlled) **AND** per guidance for primary COVID-19 symptoms.
 - If pertussis (“whooping cough”) is diagnosed by a licensed healthcare provider, student must be excluded from school until completion of a 5-day course of prescribed antibiotics or until cleared for return by the LPHA.

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4. ***DIFFICULTY BREATHING OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH** not explained by situation such as exercise: feeling unable to catch their breath, gasping for air, breathing too fast or too shallowly, breathing with extra effort such as using muscles of the stomach, chest, or neck.
 - **MAY RETURN AFTER** symptoms improving for 24 hours **AND** per guidance for primary COVID-19 symptoms.
 - This symptom is likely to require immediate medical attention.
5. **HEADACHE WITH A STIFF NECK OR FEVER.**
 - **MAY RETURN AFTER** symptoms resolve **AND** per fever guidelines if applicable.
 - This combination of symptoms can indicate a serious condition. Medical attention strongly recommended.
6. **DIARRHEA:** three or more watery or loose stools in 24 hours **OR** sudden onset of loose stools **OR** student unable to control bowel function when previously able.
 - **MAY RETURN AFTER** 48 hours after diarrhea resolves **OR** after seen and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider.
7. **VOMITING:** at least 1 episode that is unexplained.
 - **MAY RETURN AFTER** 48 hours after last episode of vomiting **OR** after seen and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider.
8. **SKIN RASH OR SORES:** new rash not previously diagnosed by a health care provider **OR** if rash is increasing in size **OR** if new sores or wounds are developing day-to-day **OR** if rash, sores, or wounds are draining and cannot be completely covered with a bandage.
 - **MAY RETURN AFTER** rash is resolved **OR** until sores and wounds are dry or can be completely covered with a bandage **OR** after seen and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider.
9. **EYE REDNESS AND DRAINAGE:** unexplained redness of one or both eyes **OR** colored drainage from the eyes **OR** eye irritation accompanied by vision changes **OR** symptoms such as eye irritation, pain, redness, swelling or excessive tear production that prevent active participation in usual school activities.
 - **MAY RETURN AFTER** symptoms resolve **OR** after seen by a licensed healthcare provider and indicated therapy has been started.
 - Eye redness alone, with no colored drainage, may be considered for attendance per [CDC guidelines](#) and school nurse assessment.

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10. **JAUNDICE:** yellowing of the eyes or skin that is new or uncharacteristic.
- **MAY RETURN AFTER** seen and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider.
11. **BEHAVIOR CHANGE:** may include uncharacteristic lethargy, decreased alertness, increased irritability, increased confusion, or a behavior change that prevents active participation in usual school activities.
- **MAY RETURN AFTER** symptoms resolve; return to normal behavior OR after seen and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider.
 - This symptom can indicate a serious condition. Medical attention strongly recommended.
12. **MAJOR HEALTH EVENT or STUDENT REQUIRING MORE CARE THAN SCHOOL STAFF CAN SAFELY PROVIDE.** May include an illness lasting more than 2 weeks; an emergency room treatment or hospital stay; a surgical procedure with potential to affect vital signs or active participation in school activities; or a new or changed health condition for which school staff is not adequately informed, trained, or licensed to provide care.
- **MAY RETURN AFTER** health and safety are addressed.
 - Medical attention strongly recommended. Written instructions from a licensed healthcare provider are likely to be required.
 - Schools must comply with state and federal regulations such as the Americans with Disabilities Act ensuring free and appropriate public education (FAPE). School staff should follow appropriate process to address reasonable accommodations and school health service provision in accordance with applicable laws.

End of symptom-based exclusion guidelines.