

Local Public Health Recommendations for Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance of Ill Students and Staff for COVID-19 in Schools

The following symptom screening criteria for ill students and staff is based on the most current research. Because people with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness – the local health department has developed the following criteria to assist schools in identifying presumptive positive COVID-19 cases.

Students with two or more of the following: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
OR
 At least one of the following: new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste/smell,
OR
 Has at least one symptom and answers yes to: Is there someone in your household who is currently in quarantine or currently positive for COVID-19?

1. Students and staff who screen positive should be immediately isolated in the designated area and sent home as soon as possible.
2. Require the symptomatic person to wear a cloth or surgical mask while waiting, if tolerable.

Re-Admittance to School

Symptomatic staff/student who tests positive:

Exclude for 10* days from symptom onset **AND** only allow to return 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) **AND** improved symptoms.

Asymptomatic staff/student who tests positive:

Exclude for 10 days from date of test **AND** only allow to return if no symptoms develop.
 If symptoms develop, refer to symptomatic positive instructions.

Symptomatic staff/student not tested:

Exclude for 10* days from symptom onset **AND** only allow to return 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) **AND** improved symptoms. May return to school if a health care provider establishes an alternative diagnosis, presents a health care provider note to confirm the presence of an alternative diagnosis that explains the symptoms, and meets the schools requirements for readmission.

*This length of time may need to be extended for people who have severe illness or are immunocompromised. Please consult SHDHD or the health care provider for further guidance on those situations

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, please call the South Heartland District Health Department at 402.462.6211 or 877.238.7595.

Symptomatic staff/student who tests negative:

Exclude until 24 hours without fever (or meets the schools requirements for readmission) **AND** improved symptoms

There is no reason for a student or staff member to get a "negative test" to be cleared for the return to school.

A COVID-19 positive individual does not need a repeat COVID-19 test or a health care provider's note in order to return.

SOUTH
HEARTLAND
DISTRICT



**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster Counties
606 N. Minnesota Ave., Ste 2, Hastings, NE

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/>