

SICK POLICIES



Please note: Additional school closures may be deemed necessary by the Department of Health.

We will follow the below guidelines in response to students or faculty members with suspected exposure, known exposure, symptoms of COVID-19, or confirmed cases of COVID-19. As always, protecting our community is a partnership and we are reliant on our parents and faculty to be forthcoming with their symptoms and known exposures. We are asking all families to complete a COVID-19 testing waiver that results can be shared with the school.

Based on the Maryland Department of Health guidelines, we will follow the below decision tree for determining when a cohort must shut down.

For the purposes of this decision aid, COVID-19-like illness is defined as: Any 1 of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, OR At least 2 of the following: fever of 100.4o or higher (measured or subjective), chills or shaking chills, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and congestion or runny nose.

Student, Faculty, or Household member with **1 new symptom not meeting the definition of COVID-19-like illness.**

Exclude Student, Faculty, or Household member and allow return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication, **AND** criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met as applicable. **If Student, Faculty, or Household member develops symptoms of COVID-19-like illness, follow processes below for person with COVID-19-like illness.**

An **asymptomatic Student, Faculty, or Household member** who **tests positive for COVID-19 (confirmed case).**

The asymptomatic Student, Faculty, or Household member (**confirmed case**) should stay home for 10 days from positive test.

Close contacts should stay home for 10 days from the date of last exposure **even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.**

Student, Faculty, or Household member with COVID-19-like illness:

- **Exclude** person and recommend that they talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19 or whether there is another specific diagnosis (e.g. influenza, strep throat, otitis) or a pre-existing condition that explains symptoms.

The ill Student, Faculty, or Household member has a positive rapid antigen test or RT-PCR for COVID-19 (**confirmed case**).

The ill Student, Faculty, or Household member should stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** until no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication **AND** improvement of other symptoms.

The ill Student, Faculty, or Household member is still suspected of having COVID-19, close contacts should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure **even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.**

If COVID-19 is not suspected, close contacts **DO NOT need to stay home** as long as they remain asymptomatic.

- **The ill Student, Faculty, or Household member should isolate pending test results or evaluation by their health care provider.**

The ill Student, Faculty, or Household member has a negative rapid antigen test for COVID-19 without a confirmatory RT-PCR.

The ill person does not receive a test for COVID-19 or another specific diagnosis by their health care provider.

The ill Student, Faculty, or Household member should stay home for 14 days and talk to their health care provider to determine if COVID-19 is still suspected and if another test is needed.

- **If the ill Student, Faculty, or Household member is a probable case of COVID-19** (e.g., COVID-19-like illness and close contact with a Student, Faculty, or Household member with COVID-19), **close contacts of the ill Student, Faculty, or Household member should quarantine.**

The ill Student, Faculty, or Household member has a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19 **AND** had close contact with a person with COVID-19.

The ill Student, Faculty, or Household member has a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19 and **NO** close contact with a person with COVID-19.

Health care provider documents that the ill Student, Faculty, or Household member has another specific diagnosis OR that symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition **AND** the ill person had **NO** close contact with a person with COVID-19.

The ill Student, Faculty, or Household member should stay home until symptoms have improved, no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication, **AND** criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met as applicable.

If symptoms do not improve, the ill Student, Faculty, or Household member should talk to their health care provider to determine if they should be tested/ retested for COVID-19.

Close contacts of the ill Student, Faculty, or Household member DO NOT need to stay home as long as they remain asymptomatic.