

## **Return-to-School Guidance:** **Students Who Exhibit Symptoms of and/or Test Positive for COVID-19**

### **Before Arriving at School**

- Students should be required to perform their own symptom self-assessment before arriving at school each day.
- Students who have a temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, or who show other symptoms of COVID-19 – including cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and/or a new loss of taste or smell – must stay home from school.
- Be aware of and account for the reality that not all students will be equally supported in conducting symptom self-assessments at home before coming to school.

### **Showing Symptoms at or Becoming Sick during School**

- Students who show COVID-19 symptoms at school or who become ill during school with COVID-19 must be sent home or to an appropriate healthcare facility (depending on the severity of illness) at the earliest convenience.
- School district administrators, nurses, and/or other healthcare providers should work together to identify a quarantine/isolation room or area of the school.
- If any student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive but does not have COVID-19 symptoms while physically attending school in-person, the student must report or be sent to the quarantine/isolation room and wear a facemask while in the room.
- Any school district personnel (including a school nurse) interacting with, overseeing, or caring for a student in the quarantine/isolation room must wear a face mask and should also utilize any other appropriate personally protective equipment (PPE) to mitigate against the potential spread of COVID-19.

### **Students Diagnosed with or Exposed to COVID-19**

- Parents/guardians must notify the school district if their child/student or a family member has been diagnosed with or is presumed to have COVID-19.
- Dismiss students and most staff for 2-5 days. This allows local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop/slow further spread of COVID-19.
- Any student with confirmed or presumed COVID-19 must meet the below conditions to return to school:

- Any student with confirmed COVID-19 may return to school after fever is resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication AND respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc.) improve AND the student has two (2) negative COVID-19 test results.
- Any student with presumed COVID-19 may return to school when at least seven (7) days have passed since symptom onset AND seventy-two (72) hours after fever resolves without the use of fever-reducing medication AND respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc.) improve.
- Any student with known exposure to someone who has been diagnosed with or is presumed to have COVID-19 must self-quarantine at home for fourteen (14) days.

### **Transportation Plan**

- The school district must establish procedures for ensuring that any student who is sick with or suspected of exposure to COVID-19 is safely transported to the student's home or, if necessary, to a healthcare facility.
- If the school district decides to call an ambulance, school staff should alert emergency personnel that the student may have or may have been exposed to COVID-19.

### **Communication Plan with Parents/Guardians**

- Communication with parents/guardians is critical regarding COVID-19 policies and procedures relating to symptom self-assessment before arriving at school, symptom onset during school, as well as stay-home requirements for any student with a confirmed or presumed COVID-19 infection.
- In particular, the school district should make sure families know that their children should not come to school, and that they should notify school officials (*e.g.*, a designated COVID-19 point of contact at the school district) if their child or a family member becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms, tests positive for COVID-19, or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.
- The school district must also communicate expectations and procedures to parents/guardians regarding visits, pick-up and drop-off, as well as signing students out of school early for COVID-19 related symptoms or illness (*e.g.*, parents/guardians call ahead and remain in vehicle until student is delivered to them).

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures**

- Close off areas of the school used by any sick or presumed ill student and do not allow access to or use of these areas until cleaning and disinfecting has been completed.

- Wait at least twenty-four (24) hours before cleaning and disinfecting. While waiting, open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in these areas.
- If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe/correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from students.

### **Notification of Local Health Officials and Close Student Contacts**

- School district administrators should contact and notify the local health department, staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as any applicable student privacy laws, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Ohio Revised Code 3319.321.
- Work with the local health department to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective contact tracing/notifications.
- In accordance with the above guidance, inform those who have had close contact with any student diagnosed with or presumed to have COVID-19 to stay home, self-monitor for symptoms, and follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health if symptoms develop.