

# COVID-19 DECISION TREE

**Known exposure to COVID-19**  
(15 minutes or longer within 6 feet)

- 14 day Quarantine
- Active symptom monitoring (e.g., take temp 2x/day and watch for symptoms)

**Does the student or staff member exhibit one or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19?**

- new onset cough
- shortness of breath
- fever (100.4°F or higher)
- chills
- muscle pain
- sore throat
- loss of sense of smell or taste
- gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea (more common in children)

**STOP**

**Students or staff who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be denied entry or dismissed. Reference the exclusion criteria in this document to determine when they may return.**

RN to safely isolate student and coordinate dismissal with instructions to follow up with HCP

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**Received other diagnosis from healthcare provider**  
(e.g., norovirus, strep throat) that explain the symptoms, or HCP determines symptoms are connected to a pre-existing condition.

If symptoms are self limiting (e.g., headache), **school nurse may use professional clinical judgement.**

Stay home until symptoms have improved. Follow specific return guidance from the HCP or per MICDS contagious illness policies

Remain home until symptoms have improved. Follow specific return guidance from the HCP or school nurse.

RN to safely isolate student and coordinate dismissal with instructions to follow up with HCP

**COVID-19 symptoms without a medical evaluation (e.g., monitoring symptoms at home)**

Stay home until:

- It has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared
- AND no fever for at least 3 days without the use of fever reducing medication
- AND improvement of other symptoms

**OK to return with documentation from HCP and/or approval by the school nurse.**

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Stay home until:

- It has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared
- AND no fever for at least 3 days without the use of fever reducing medication
- AND improvement of other symptoms
- Siblings and family members must also quarantine for 14 days

**OK to return with documentation from HCP and/or approval by the school nurse.**

**Tested COVID-19 POSITIVE, but asymptomatic**

**COVID-19 Test POSITIVE**

Stay home until:

- No fever for at least 3 days without the use of fever reducing medication
- AND improvement of symptoms

**OK to return with documentation from HCP and/or approval by the school nurse.**

**Received laboratory testing for COVID-19**  
Quarantine and monitor symptoms until laboratory results received.

**COVID-19 Test NEGATIVE**

Stay home until:

- No fever for at least 3 days without the use of fever reducing medication
- AND improvement of symptoms

**OK to return with documentation from HCP and/or approval by the school nurse.**

## Considerations:

- May require school closure for 1-2 days for cleaning and disinfection of the building or exposed area.
- If 5% of the student population tests positive in one day, 4% test positive 2 days in a row, or 3% test positive 3 days in a row, the St. Louis County Health Department recommends closing the school for 10 days.
- School RNs and administrators to perform contact tracing.
- May receive other guidance from Health Department as necessary.