



Student Handbook Addendum 2021-2022

COVID-19

The Franklin County Public Health Department, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and Columbus Public Health have provided recommendations for monitoring COVID-19 symptoms. In addition to the health information already found in the student handbook, the District will utilize the following practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- All parents/guardians are asked to conduct self-assessments for their student **prior** to them reporting to school **each** day.
- Parents/Guardians must follow the guidelines below regarding symptoms, testing, and keeping students home from school.

Child In-Person Participation Algorithm

Guidance for daily home-based screening by parents, care givers and guardians

Keep Child with SYMPTOMS of Infection at Home ¹:

Any of the following ²:

- Fever (100.4°F or higher)
- New or worsened cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset severe headache

For children with chronic medical conditions (such as allergies, asthma or migraine), symptoms should represent a change from their usual health status.

¹ *If you think your child has a medical emergency or life-threatening condition, always call 911 immediately.*

² *Children without any of the symptoms listed above who have non-specific symptoms such as congestion, runny nose, fatigue or body aches should be kept at home if their care giver suspects their child may have an infection.*

Obtain COVID-19 viral test.

Keep Child at Home Until Following Criteria Met:

Positive or Clinical Diagnosis (Not Tested)

10 days after symptom onset and 24+ hours without fever and improved symptoms

Pending

Until results known

Negative

24+ hours without fever and improved symptoms

Alternative Diagnosis

24+ hours without fever and improved symptoms

IF SYMPTOMS DEVELOP AT SCHOOL

If any of the symptoms listed above (in vaccinated or unvaccinated individuals) are observed during the school day, the student will:

- Need to be sent home from school
- Remain in the Isolation Room until picked up by parent/guardian
- Parent/Guardian will call the school office upon their arrival at the building
- A staff member will escort the student to the vehicle in the parking lot

RETURN TO SCHOOL

It is recommended the parent follow up with the child's doctor for a possible alternative diagnosis or administer a COVID-19 test (a rapid BinaxNow test kit request form is also found on the district website).

ALTERNATIVE DIAGNOSIS

If the child has an alternative diagnosis, the child should not report to school until all symptoms have been resolved for 24 hours without the use of medication AND a doctor's note of alternative diagnosis is provided.

BinaxNow TEST KITS

BinaxNow Test kits provided by the district can confirm a positive case and should be reported to the school nurse.

PCR COVID TESTING OR MEDICAL CARE

If the student does not seek PCR COVID testing or medical care, they must remain at home from school and extracurricular events for **ten days after initial symptom onset** AND not return until fever-free for 24 hours without medication AND have improvement of symptoms.

SIBLINGS AND HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Siblings and household members must also stay home for ten days from the last day of exposure to the person with symptoms, unless receiving medical care for an alternate diagnosis. **This may require up to 20 days unless the symptomatic person was isolated from all household members.**

CLOSE CONTACT

A close contact to a positive case must be quarantined for 10 days from the classroom and athletic/extracurricular events after the last/most recent contact with the positive individual when the case was infectious and must monitor for symptoms and wear a mask through day 14.

- In PreK-12 classrooms, a close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 cumulative minutes.
- During the lunch contact tracing process, if it was determined 6 feet of social distance was maintained, modified quarantine can be implemented.
- If a high school student goes out to lunch and is exposed, it is considered a school close contact and not eligible for a modified quarantine.

VACCINATIONS

NOT VACCINATED

Students and adults who are **not vaccinated** in school may continue to attend in-person school and extracurricular/athletics under a modified quarantine when:

1. Individual remains symptom free, monitors for symptoms and wears a mask for 14 days indoors, as much as possible
2. Close contact was consistently wearing a mask properly during the exposure
3. Three feet of social distancing was in place during the exposure
4. Handwashing and routine cleaning protocols are in place

***IF the individual is not fully vaccinated they can return after day 7 from quarantine when a negative test was performed at least 5 days after exposure.**

VACCINATED

Students and adults who are **fully vaccinated** may attend school and extracurricular/athletics as long as the individual remains symptom free AND:

1. Proper masking for all adults and students was in place
2. Three feet of social distancing was in place during the exposure
3. Handwashing and routine cleaning protocols are in place

***IF the individual is fully vaccinated and three conditions were not in place the individual can attend school if they wear a mask indoors, to the greatest extent possible, for 14 days or when they receive a negative test performed 3-5 days after exposure and remain symptom free.**

SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In sports or extracurricular activities, a close contact is **any individual engaging in a contact sport for any time with the infected individual**. A close contact in an **extracurricular activity is** anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 cumulative minutes.

Students and adults identified as a close contact in extracurriculars or athletics will need to quarantine for 10 days and monitor for symptoms/wear a mask for 14 days. They are not eligible for a modified quarantine.

POSITIVE COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS

If any student has been **diagnosed** with COVID-19, the parent/guardian should:

- Contact the school secretary or nurse to report the case in order for contact tracing and proper notification to occur
- The student may return to school 10 days from symptom onset or test collection date, and improvements of symptoms and no fever for 24 hours without medication
- Siblings and household members must also stay home for 10 days from the last day of exposure to the positive case (note this may require up to 20 days unless the student was isolated from all household members)

*Preschool will follow all preschool licensing rules which may be slightly different from school-age rules. Please see the Preschool handbook for additional information.

If a student or employee received a positive COVID-19 test within the last 90 days they do not need to stay home or quarantine for 10 days when identified as a close contact, unless they develop symptoms.

CLOSE CONTACT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

If any student has been identified as a close contact to a **confirmed case of COVID-19 outside the school environment**, the parent/guardian should:

- Contact the school secretary or nurse to report the case
- Keep the student home for monitoring and quarantine for 10 days from school and extracurricular/athletics from **the last day of exposure**
- Monitor for symptoms for 14 days
- Wear a mask when indoors through day 14
- If the student develops symptoms, the parent should contact their doctor for a possible alternative diagnosis or COVID-19 test

*Individuals (staff or students PreK-12) may consider ending quarantine after day 7 (return on day 8) by obtaining and providing to the school nurse a negative COVID-19 test taken on day 5 or later as long **as they remain symptom free**. This includes the at-home BinaxNow Test kits provided by the district. If the student has developed symptoms a negative PCR test is required to return to school on day 8.