

# COVID-19 Guidance for Parents/Guardians Rev. 9/6/22

**Public Health Hotline**  
**980-314-9400**

## How will I be notified if someone tests positive for COVID-19 in our school?

- School-wide and team/extracurricular notification of a potential exposure will occur each week when the first positive case is identified in the school. Notification will occur through phone message, email or written correspondence.
- Potential exposure notifications will:
  - Encourage everyone to wear a well-fitting mask at school
  - Monitor for symptoms and stay home if sick
  - Get tested immediately if symptomatic and on day 5 after an exposure
- Any notifications must maintain confidentiality.

If the positive person has not been in the building within 10 days of testing positive, no notification is necessary.

## What should I do if my student tests positive for COVID-19?

- Notify the school principal via phone or e-mail.
- Make sure your student is not at school. Household members can remain at school as long as they test negative and no symptoms develop.
- Student must stay isolated for at least 5 days from the start of symptoms.

## When can my student return to school in-person after a positive COVID-19 test?

- The student must isolate until all three of the below items are true:
  1. It has been at least 5 days since symptoms started, or 5 days since the test if no symptoms are experienced.
  2. It has been at least 24 hours since running a fever with no fever-reducing medications used.
  3. All symptoms are showing improvement and student feels well enough to return.

The student must continue to wear a mask for 10 days after symptoms started or positive test, if no symptoms. The person may remove their mask earlier if they receive 2 sequential negative tests 48 hours apart.

## What should I do if my student develops COVID-19 symptoms?

***Symptoms include but not limited to: fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, new cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.***

- Notify your student's school by phone or email.
- Remove your student from the school buildings or do not allow the student to report to school.
- Consult with your healthcare provider and/or access available testing from the **[Mecklenburg County COVID-19 Testing Site Locator website](#)**.
- Siblings or household members do not need to leave school unless they also develop symptoms.

## When can my student return to school in-person after developing symptoms?

- If the student tests positive, see the procedures for what to do if the student tests positive.
- If the student receives a negative PCR or Antigen COVID-19 test, the student can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and the student felt well for 24 hours. **Documentation of the negative test must be given to the school.** It is recommended that a negative antigen tests is a symptomatic person is followed by a PCR or repeat antigen tests.

- If the student receives confirmation of an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider that would explain the COVID-19 like symptom(s), the student can return to school following normal illness procedures or policies, once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and the student has felt well for 24 hours.
- Please provide documentation of alternative diagnosis to your student's school nurse.
- If the student has symptoms, does not get tested, and no alternative diagnosis is documented, the student must remain out of school for at least 5 days and after symptoms improved with no fever and wear a mask for 5 days after return.

### What should I do if my student was a close contact to someone who tested positive for COVID-19?

- It is recommended that they get tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Consult with your healthcare provider and/or access available testing from the **Mecklenburg County COVID-19 Testing Site Locator website**.
- Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and contact your healthcare provider if your student develops symptoms.
- If your student has symptoms, your student should be tested for COVID-19.
- A test is currently recommended for anyone who had known close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19. However, a negative test is not required to return as long as the student remains asymptomatic.
- Teachers and classmates do not need to be informed unless the student tests positive or develop symptoms. In that case, see "What to do if your student tests positive" above.

### What else should I keep in mind?

- Consider getting anyone who is eligible vaccinated.
- Please do not send your student to school if they are sick. Anyone who develops any symptoms should stay home until further evaluation.
- If a student develops COVID-like symptoms (fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, sore throat, new cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell) during school, they will be sent to an isolation room and parents/ guardians will need to bring the student home and seek medical attention to rule out COVID.
- Remind your student to wash their hands regularly, wear their face covering correctly and consistently and maintain social distance.
- Consult your healthcare provider and/or access available testing from the **Mecklenburg County COVID-19 Testing Site Locator website**. The decision to get tested is up to the individual.
- If you have additional questions, call the Public Health Hotline at 980-314-9400.
- Based on privacy regulations, we are unable to provide any identifying information about the individual who tested positive.