

# District 87 COVID-19 Student Protocols

## ***Student Mental Health Considerations***

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased stress levels of our students and families. We want to prioritize our students' mental health during these uncertain times. As such, we have made every effort to ensure that the school is safe for the return of our students. All staff members are aware of mental health considerations during this transition. Parents/guardians with concerns regarding their child's mental health should request additional resources from their child's counselor.

## ***Student Arrival and Dismissal Procedures***

Students will have assigned seats on the school bus and designated doors for entering the building upon arrival to school. Once at the school building, a staff member will verify that the student is wearing a mask and their self-certification has been completed. Students will be denied access to their classes for non-compliance.

At the end of the school day, students will be dismissed from the building according to their bus number. Students who are walkers or transported to and from school by parents/guardians will be dismissed after bus riders. Students who are participating in afterschool programs such as those provided by the YWCA and Boys & Girls Club will be dismissed last.

## ***Student Screening and Self-certification***

Parents/guardians must certify the status of their child's health daily prior to the student reporting to school. Parents/guardians must complete a Covid Symptom Certification Form for their child prior to arriving at school. Students will be placed in a quarantine room and not allowed to attend school for the day if the daily self-certification card has not been completed.

Students with a temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or above, or who answer yes to any of the screening questions completed as part of the self-certification process, should not report to school. Students who develop any symptoms of COVID-19 while at school will be quarantined and immediately sent home. If this occurs, parents/guardians should contact their healthcare provider.

Students with long-term medical conditions, such as sinusitis, that would result in the parent/guardian responding "yes" to one of the screening questions, should provide documentation from a medical professional to the school nurse to show that it is not a symptom of COVID-19. Students presenting with new symptoms or a change in baseline symptoms may be excluded.

[More information about COVID-19 exclusion from school is available here from the Illinois Department of Public Health.](#)

### ***Student Health and Safety***

The success of our return to school relies on all students following social distancing guidelines and health and safety protocols. As we know, practicing good hygiene is essential to prevent the spread of the virus. Medical evaluation and testing are strongly recommended for all persons with COVID-like symptoms.

Student responsibilities:

- Adhere to social distancing guidelines, which is 6 feet apart while in buildings.
- Masks must be worn at all times while in D87 buildings and on school buses. Masks also must be worn while outside if a 6 feet distance cannot be maintained.
- Regularly wash your hands for at least 20 seconds throughout the day with warm water and soap, specifically before eating.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your arm or elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

### ***Student Becomes Ill at School***

If a student becomes ill at school, the following process will occur:

- a. School Personnel will send students to the School Nurse or isolation area.
- b. Student will be placed in an isolation area pending notification of parent/guardian.
- c. School will contact parents/guardians to pick up the student and other household members across the district.
- d. Parents/guardians should contact healthcare providers for next steps.
- e. See 'What to do if' section for return to school policy.

### ***What To Do If...***

1. Student tests positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms. Corresponds with letter A. on the IDPH Covid-19 Exclusion Guidance Tree.
  - a. Inform School office or attendance line of Absence.
  - b. Student and household members must not attend school.
  - c. Parents/guardians should contact healthcare provider.
  - d. Follow healthcare provider's instructions.
  - e. Student may return to school after 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of

fever-reducing medicine during that time, AND coughs and respiratory symptoms have improved. Parents/guardians must provide the 'Release from Isolation' letter from the health department to the school.

2. Student tests positive for COVID-19, but has no symptoms. Corresponds with letter A. on the IDPH Covid-19 Exclusion Guidance Tree.
  - a. Inform School office or attendance line of Absence.
  - b. Student and household members must not attend school.
  - c. Parents/guardians should contact healthcare provider.
  - d. Follow healthcare provider's instructions.
  - e. Student may return to school after 10 days have passed since a positive viral test and parent/guardian provides the 'Release from Isolation' letter from the health department to the school.
  
3. Student has symptoms with a negative COVID-19 test. Corresponds with letter B. on the IDPH Covid-19 Exclusion Guidance Tree.
  - a. Inform School office or attendance line of Absence.
  - b. Do not attend school.
  - c. Parents/guardians should contact healthcare provider.
  - d. Follow healthcare provider's instructions.
  - e. Student may return to school after symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition. Parents/guardians must provide documentation of the negative COVID-19 test result OR a healthcare provider's note indicating the negative test result.
  
4. Student has COVID-19 symptoms with an alternative diagnosis and without negative COVID-19 testing. Corresponds with letter C. on the IDPH Covid-19 Exclusion Guidance Tree.
  - a. Inform School office or attendance line of Absence.
  - b. Do not attend school.
  - c. Parents/guardians should contact healthcare provider.
  - d. Follow healthcare provider's instructions, which may include getting tested.
  - e. Student may return to school if it has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine during that time, AND coughs and other symptoms have improved AND Healthcare Provider's note with alternative diagnosis.
  
5. Student has symptoms without a COVID-19 test or provider evaluation. Corresponds with letter D. on the IDPH Covid-19 Exclusion Guidance Tree.
  - a. Inform School office or attendance line of Absence.

- b. Student and household members must not attend school.
  - c. Parents/guardians should contact healthcare provider.
  - d. Follow healthcare provider's instructions.
  - e. Student may return to school after 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine during that time, AND improvement of symptoms. Parents/guardians must provide written documentation that students and household contacts are free of fever and symptoms.
6. Student has no symptoms and has had close contact\*\* or lives with someone who is either symptomatic or has tested positive for COVID-19 \*\*The CDC describes "close contact" as being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time, which is defined as at least 15 minutes (caring for, living with, visiting or sharing a health care waiting area or other room) or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g. being coughed on). Corresponds with letter E. on the IDPH Covid-19 Exclusion Guidance decision tree.
- a. Inform School Nurse.
  - b. Do not attend school.
  - c. Student must be quarantined for 14 days. Day 1 of this count begins on the first day after the last contact with the individual who has tested positive.
  - d. Parents/guardians should contact healthcare provider.
  - e. Follow healthcare provider's instructions, which may include getting tested. Notify School Nurse of testing results.
  - f. Students may return to school when the quarantine period has ended and when released by the health department. A 'Release from Quarantine' letter from the health department will be required to return to school.
  - g. If the close contact develops symptoms, COVID-19 diagnostic testing is recommended. If they remain asymptomatic, all close contacts are recommended to be tested between 5-9 days after exposure to a positive case.
  - h. All close contacts that have a lab confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis within the past 90 days will not be required to quarantine.

### ***COVID-19 Exposure or Confirmed Illness***

Students who test positive for COVID-19 or believe they have been infected will be instructed to follow the advice of a qualified medical professional and self-quarantine.

Students who are symptomatic but not tested for COVID-19 may only return to school if they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours and have not used fever-reducing medicine during that time, coughs and other symptoms have improved, and ten days have passed since they

first experienced symptoms. Documentation of the alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider is required.

When a student tests positive for COVID-19, those who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive will be notified and instructed to self-quarantine.

### *Student Exclusion from School*

A student will be excluded from school if they do not complete self-certification or test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC and IDPH Guidance.

One of the following symptoms below is an exclusionary factor from school:

- Temperature of 100.4°F or above
- New cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- New onset of moderate to severe headache
- Sore throat without known origin
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New congestion/runny nose
- Abdominal pain from unknown cause
- Fatigue from unknown cause

Once a student is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the IDPH.

Students who are returning from illness related to COVID-19 should call to check in with the school nurse or building administrator if the nurse is not available following quarantine to verify resolution of symptoms and that criteria to discontinue quarantine have been met.

#### Siblings or other students in the household

- If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive COVID-19 test, his or her siblings or other students living in the same household will be excluded across the district.

#### Self-Quarantine

- If a student has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a hot spot by the CDC, the school reserves the right to exclude the student from the building and require that they self-quarantine for 14 calendar days.

### School Response to Exclusion or Self-Quarantine

- As soon as we become aware of a student that may have COVID-19 or that has been excluded from school or recommended to self-quarantine, the custodial staff will be notified so that all desks, lockers, and workspaces of that person are disinfected as soon as reasonably possible. If the school is not open when the notification occurs, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting and instead will block the area so others do not have contact.

### *Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in the School Building*

When there is a confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was in a school building, the school will contact the McLean County Health Department immediately. Following a positive case in the building, the Illinois Department of Public Health in cooperation with the McLean County Health Department will determine when a school building will need to be closed and for how long.

The Building Principal will contact parents of students and employees who came into contact with the person who tested positive and encourage cooperation with the health department to trace contacts with the individual. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large, but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the health department.

While the school building is closed, all school activities will be cancelled or rescheduled, regardless of whether the activity was to take place in the building or another location, including extra-curricular activities.

When a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 occurs, the following communication protocol will happen:

1. The person who is notified of the confirmed case of COVID-19 must notify the Building Principal as soon as it is reasonably possible.
  - a. If a parent contacts the teacher with information about a confirmed case of COVID-19, the teacher must communicate with the Building Principal as soon as reasonably possible.
2. The Building Principal will communicate with the Building Nurse as soon as it is reasonably possible.
3. The Building Principal will communicate with the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources as soon as it is reasonably possible.
4. The Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent will inform the Chief Financial and Facilities Officer of the confirmed case. Information on the classroom that

the student has been in will be shared so the cleaning process can begin as soon as is reasonably possible.

5. The Chief Financial and Facilities Officer will communicate with the Director of Transportation so they are aware of a confirmed positive case.
6. The Building Nurse will reach out to the McLean County Health Department to confirm that they are aware of the confirmed case.
7. Next steps in communication will be dictated by the McLean County Health Department.

### ***Procedures for Outbreak Response and Consideration for Closure:***

An outbreak is defined as two or more cases that are linked epidemiologically with respect to person, place and time. In other words, two cases have shared close contacts and location and have onsets within 14 calendar days of each other. Conversely, two cases that occurred in different time frames ( at least 15 calendar days apart), separate locations, and having no common source of exposure would not constitute an outbreak.

Once an outbreak is identified, the McLean County Health Department will further investigate to determine the extent of exposure at the school and what control measures are needed to mitigate the outbreak. Alternative social distancing strategies, less drastic than closure, might include:

- Quarantining the affected classroom
- Suspending in-person learning for affected classes
- Closing playgrounds
- Canceling non-essential activities and meetings
- Keeping students in stable class groups or classrooms and moving teachers between classes if necessary
- Increasing spacing between students in classes
- Shortening the in-person school week
- Staggering school start and lunch/break times

### ***Classroom or School Building Shutdown***

If the Illinois Department of Public Health and/or McLean County Health Department determine the need to shutdown a classroom and/or school building, teachers and students will participate in remote learning with their assigned classroom teacher(s) for the duration of the shutdown.

