

PROTOCOLS FOR SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES

The intent of this document is to provide an overview of Seven Hills' approach to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases on campus.

With the science on COVID-19 evolving every day, we anticipate these protocols will be refined over the course of the coming weeks. As written, our protocols are based on guidance issued by Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) to community pediatric providers, which is based in turn on current CDC guidelines and informed by CCHMC partners and local public health authorities. In addition, we have been consulting regularly with a committee of healthcare experts in our community, including our COVID Advisory Team, which is led by pediatricians and members of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

During the school year, students, faculty, and staff will be expected to self-monitor for symptoms and openly report positive test results to the school. Temperature screenings will be performed at school daily; however, temperature screening alone is not a reliable indicator of infection and parents are in the best position to note early and subtle changes in their child's health status.

The single most important thing to do if any symptoms of COVID-19 are present is to STAY HOME. Our collective health relies, in part, on individual attention and responsibility. Note that some symptoms of COVID-19 are the same as the flu or a cold; please do not assume it is another condition. **WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY HOME.**

COVID-19 Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Chills/Repeated shaking with chills

Suspected case of COVID-19 at home

When a student/faculty or family member of student/faculty develops symptoms at home, do the following:

- Notify the school nurse of symptoms via email or phone.
- Contact primary healthcare provider for further diagnosis and testing.
- Parents or caregivers and all school employees must immediately notify the school nurse if they or if a member of their household is diagnosed with or is presumed to have COVID-19 or if being tested.

Suspected case of COVID-19 on campus

In light of the risks presented by COVID-19, and in the interest of the health and safety of students and their families, and Seven Hill's faculty and staff, if the student presents with one or more symptoms of COVID-19 and there is no definitive, alternative cause immediately identifiable, the nurse will act with caution and treat as a suspected case of COVID-19. If an individual presents with at least one COVID-19 symptom during the school day:

- The individual will be instructed to keep their face mask in place (unless there is a medical reason not to do so).
- The individual will visit with the school nurse for an evaluation of symptoms.
- The individual will be placed in an isolated area, under nursing supervision.
- The parents will be notified and must collect their child within 30 minutes.
- Parents should consult with their primary healthcare provider for further diagnosis and testing.
- **Parents or caregivers and all school employees must immediately notify the school nurse if they or if a member of their household is diagnosed with or is presumed to have COVID-19 or if being tested.**

Assessment of illness in children

The flow charts on the following pages represent a simplified guide to actions that will be advised by the nurse in the event of a child presenting with one or more symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

It must be remembered that, in a typical week at school, our school nurses deal with multiple instances of students with relatively minor ailments, including fever, headache, sore throat and cough. We will continue to see these minor ailments, unrelated to COVID-19. The challenge in the current environment is that each of these is also known to be a possible symptom of COVID-19.

As a result, the nurse will take a cautious approach to handling student illness on a case-by-case basis, and referencing the clinical case definition of COVID-19, as set out by the CDC.

Where presenting symptoms meet the case definition—even though we recognize that the probability of COVID-19 is slight—she will advise that the student is collected from campus and consults with a healthcare provider for further diagnosis and testing. **We strongly advise parents to seek testing.**

As well as seeking guidance from your primary healthcare provider, both the Ohio Department of Health and the City of Cincinnati Health Department websites provide useful COVID-19 resources, including details of testing sites.

Testing

When a healthcare provider deems testing appropriate, there are many available options to obtain a COVID-19 test. Depending on your healthcare provider, you may be able to get a test at their office, or you may need to go elsewhere for a test.

It is important to inquire as to the testing method your individual healthcare provider uses. The PCR/Molecular assay test is the gold standard for COVID-19 testing with high sensitivity and specificity rates, resulting in better accuracy. Rapid antigen tests are quick, but do not provide the same level of accuracy seen with PCR/Molecular assay tests. The Seven Hills nursing staff requires the PCR/Molecular assay test, we are not accepting the fast antigen tests.

It is also important to discuss turnaround time for test results with your healthcare provider. To expedite contact tracing at school and prevent further spread, quick turnaround time is key. **Many pediatrician offices are using Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center for testing due to a turnaround time between 24-48 hours for results.**

If you have difficulty seeing your pediatrician on a timely basis, or cannot obtain PCR/Molecular assay testing with your healthcare provider, you may use this service through Cincinnati Children's Hospital - CINCYKIDS HEALTH CONNECT. This service allows you to see a pediatric expert right away—with 24/7 video visits from your smart phone or computer. <https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/patients/visit/directions/cincykids-health-connect>

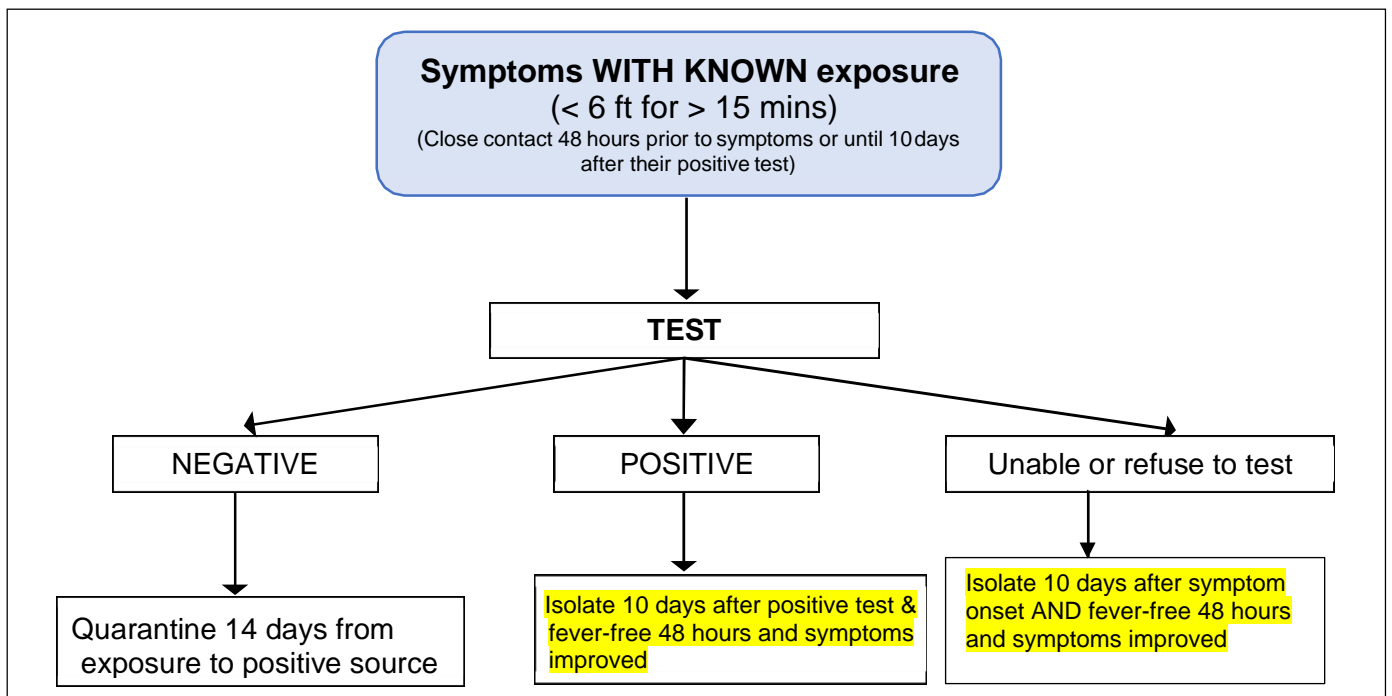
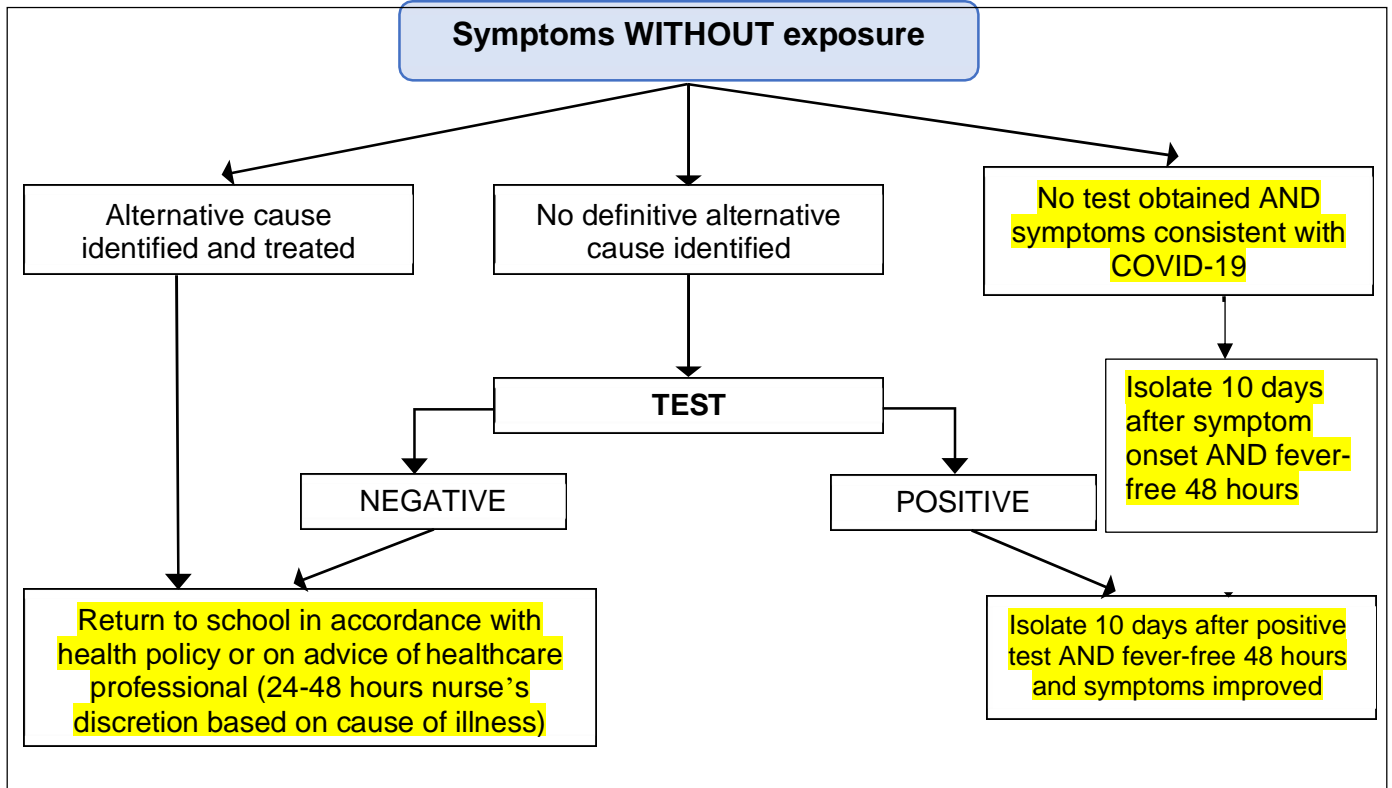
In order to obtain your child's results quickly you can set up a MyChart at Cincinnati Children's Hospital <https://mychart.cincinnatichildrens.org>

Parents are asked to forward test results to the school nurse as soon as they are available.

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Flowcharts to guide action in the event of illness




Who will need to quarantine or isolate?

Students in the class of a **confirmed** case (determined by a positive test result or assessment of a healthcare provider) will be investigated by the City of Cincinnati Health Department to determine if they have been in close contact with the positive individual; quarantine protocols will be followed accordingly.

In addition to students in the positive individual's class (most relevant for Lower School, where cohorts can be maintained), the school will identify other close contacts, based on assigned seating charts in subject classes, and scheduled or known activities in which the source has participated. All close contacts will be required to quarantine for 14 days.

The following table provides a guide to the approach that will be taken.

| WHAT SYMPTOMS ARE EXHIBITED?  | WHAT WAS THE EXPOSURE? | |
|--|--|---|
| | Known close contact exposure (Source < 6 ft for > 15 mins. Close contact 48 hrs prior to source's symptoms or up to 10 days after their positive test) <i>e.g. sibling/household contact, child in same "cohort" or classroom</i> | No close contact exposure (Source > 6 ft or < 15 mins) <i>e.g. passed in hallway, child in different classroom</i> |
| Asymptomatic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine 14 days² & monitor for symptoms Test on initial identification, if possible, OR test if symptoms develop (healthcare provider guidance on timing of test) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor for symptoms |
| Symptoms of COVID-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate patient Consider alternative diagnoses Test for COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If negative: continue to quarantine 14 days from exposure If positive: isolate until at least 48 hours fever free and 10 days after positive test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay home from school while ill and consult with your healthcare provider to consider alternative diagnoses Test for COVID-19 if no alternative diagnosis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If negative: return to school once recovered (48 hours fever free *nurse's discretion* and symptoms improved, or on advice of healthcare professional) If positive: isolate until at least 48 hours fever free and 10 days after the positive test result If NOT tested and symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, isolate 10 days from symptom onset and 48 hours fever free |

² If an asymptomatic QUARANTINED patient develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 at any time during quarantine, the patient should then begin the 10 days of ISOLATION

Remote learning

To maintain continuity of instruction, students will engage in remote learning for the period of their quarantine.

In the case of faculty required to quarantine, they will instruct from home, until the 14-day quarantine period is concluded.

Cleaning protocols

Areas visited by a COVID-19 positive individual will be closed for cleaning and disinfecting.

Communication and Required Notifications in the event of a Positive Case

In the event of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, the school nurse will send an email notification to inform families within a homeroom cohort, class or grade as warranted. A subsequent email will be addressed to those individuals who are determined to be within close contact with the positive case. Per the CDC, close contact is defined as anyone who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours prior to symptom onset until he/she was isolated. The school nurse will coordinate contact tracing with the City of Cincinnati Health Department. The identity of the positive individual will be kept private and not shared within the community. Seven Hills will adhere to all privacy guidelines to the extent required by applicable laws and government agencies.

Multiple Confirmed Cases

In instances of multiple cases of confirmed COVID-19 in the school at one time, or if there is a series of single cases in a short time span, school leaders will work with the Ohio Department of Health and City of Cincinnati Health Department to determine if it is likely that there is transmission happening at the school.

Decisions about classroom or school quarantines will consider overall community and school-level spread. Steps agreed with the local health authorities might include, for example, shutting down the school or classroom, grade, or division for a short time (e.g. 1-3 days) for extensive cleaning, or closing campus for a longer duration (e.g. a 14-day quarantine period). Plans will be clearly communicated with families and students. Families should be ready to pivot quickly to a remote learning environment.

Additional Resources

CDC guidance for families on actions to take if sick:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>

School Nurses

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Definitions

The following definitions are used for this document:

Fever is defined as a temperature of ≥ 100 F (in accordance with Seven Hill's communicable disease policy)

Close contact is defined by the CDC as greater than 15 minutes within 6 feet of another person.

A person with COVID-19 is considered **infectious** from 48 hours before he/she first develops symptoms (or tests positive if asymptomatic) and until at least 10 days after diagnosis or positive test.

Confirmed COVID-19 is based on lab or clinically confirmed illness

Isolation is used to separate people infected with the virus from people who are not infected.

Quarantine keeps someone who was or may have been exposed to the virus away from others in case they become symptomatic. Patients who are in close contact with a case who is confirmed are advised to quarantine at home for 14 days from the time of exposure to capture the most likely period they may develop symptoms to prevent further spread. Patients need to be quarantined if they were in close contact with a source 48 hours before symptom onset or a positive test. In contrast, if a patient is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, home **isolation** is recommended until the individual is recovered. The individual is recovered when it has been ten days since the positive test result, is fever free for 48 hours and improving clinically.