



NJ Department of Health Guidelines for Schools Summary

[Link to the full August 13, 2020 NJDOH Revised Document on Schools](#)

August 19, 2020

The schools are following the guidance from the Department of Health and the Department of Education. This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19 and is subject to change as additional information is known.

Stay Home When Sick or if Exposed to COVID-19

Students and staff should stay home if they have tested positive (viral test) for COVID-19, have COVID-19 symptoms, have had a potential exposure to COVID-19, had a recent close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the past 14 days or traveled to an area with high levels of COVID-19 transmission in the past 14 days:

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

Maintain social distancing as much as possible

The more people a student or staff member interacts with, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. [Click here for CDC information on exposure.](#)

The risk of COVID-19 transmission is lower when:

- There are small, in-person classes, activities, and events.
- Students remain as far apart as possible and do not share objects

School Sports:

All extracurricular activities have been postponed and will be revisited as the school year progresses and more guidance comes from the NJDOE and NJDOH. Any questions about sports physicals please contact Valleyview Health Office.

Choir and Music:

Due to potential increased risk of droplet transmission, physical distancing should be prioritized for wind instruments and singing. If it's safe and weather permits, consider moving class outdoors where air circulation is better than indoors and maintain at least 6 feet distance between students. When students are not playing an instrument that requires the use of their mouths, they must wear a face covering.

Limit the use of shared supplies ie, books, toys, games, technology, writing implements.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60%



alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer). Encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue if not wearing a face covering/mask.

Face Coverings

Wearing face coverings is an important step to help slow the spread of COVID-19 when combined with everyday preventive actions and social distancing in public settings. Face coverings must be worn by staff, students, and visitors in all situations except as delineated in Executive Order 175. This includes prior to boarding the school bus, while on the bus and until they are completely off the bus. See <https://nj.gov/education/reopening/faqs/index.shtml> for face covering FAQ. Clear face coverings that cover the nose and wrap securely around the face may be considered in certain circumstances, if they do not cause breathing difficulties or overheating for the wearer. Clear face coverings are not face shields.

Cleaning and Disinfection

This means at least daily sanitizing surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones and toys. A cleaning protocol will be followed if we have notification of a confirmed COVID-19 case in the schools depending when and where the person was and for how long.

Symptom Screening

Students and staff will be visually screened by trained staff members upon arrival to school for Covid-19 symptoms. Parents are to monitor their students for COVID-19 symptoms and not send them to in-person school if symptomatic. Outreach systems will provide reminders to staff and families to check for symptoms before leaving for school. An online form will also be used to screen students and staff.

Preparing for illness

The district personnel will closely monitor daily reports of staff and student attendance/absence and identify when persons are out with COVID-19 symptoms.

Covid-19 symptoms

Parents must not send students to school when sick. School staff have plans to isolate students with overt symptoms of any infectious disease that develop during the school day. For school settings, the CDC and NJDOH recommend that students and staff with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and **excluded from school**:

- **At least two of the following symptoms:** fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose;
- OR
- **At least one of the following symptoms:** cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.



Children and staff with COVID-19 symptoms will be placed away from others and required to wear a face covering/mask until they can be sent home.

When Illness Occurs Within the School Setting

Ask ill student (or parent) and staff about potential exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days:

- Close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- Travel to an area with a high level of COVID-19 transmission [NJ travel advisory list](#):
- [International travel advisory](#):
- Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider for evaluation on whether testing is needed. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended for persons with COVID-19 symptoms.

If COVID-19 risk is low (or COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix, green), ill individuals without potential exposure to COVID-19 should follow the NJDOH School Exclusion List. No public health notification is needed UNLESS there is an unusual increase in the number of persons who are ill (over normal levels), which might indicate an outbreak.

If ill students have potential COVID-19 exposure OR if COVID-19 risk is moderate or high (COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix, yellow or orange), they should be excluded according to the COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria.

Schools should notify LHDs when students or staff are ill and have potential COVID-19 exposure, are ill when COVID-19 risk level is high (orange), or when they see an increase in the number of persons with compatible symptoms.

Schools should be prepared to provide the following information when consulting with the LHD:

- Contact information for the ill persons;
- The date the ill person developed symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19 (if known), and was last in the building;
- Types of interactions (close contacts, length of contact) the person may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations;
- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers for ill person's close contacts in the school;
- Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps.

Immediately close off areas used by the person who is sick, open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area and wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect. Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick as outlined in cleaning and disinfection section, including isolation area. Once area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be



opened for use.

If the number of ill students exceeds the number of isolation areas and the areas cannot be closed for 24 hours, clean and disinfect between ill persons.

Notify the school community after consultation with the LHD, NJDOE and School District Attorney.

When Someone Tests Positive for COVID-19

Schools should ensure that parents and staff notify school authorities if they test positive for COVID-19.

Schools should notify the LHD and provide the following information, where available:

- Contact information for the person(s) who tested positive for COVID-19;
- The date the COVID-19 positive person developed symptoms (if applicable), tested positive for COVID-19 (if known), and was last in the building;
- Types of interactions (close contacts, length of contact) the person may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations;
- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers for ill person's close contacts in the school;
- Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps. As long as routine cleaning and disinfecting have been done regularly (at least daily), additional cleaning measures are not necessary unless the COVID-19 positive person is in school on the day school officials are notified of the positive test.
- Notify the school community after consultation with the LHD, NJDOE and School District Attorney.

Outbreaks

An outbreak in school settings is defined as two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing.

In conjunction with the LHD, school staff should help identify close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in the school.

Closure

Closure is a local decision that should be made by school administrators in consultation with local public health using the COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix.

Testing

CDC does not recommend universal testing of all asymptomatic students and staff, and NJDOH concurs with this recommendation.