



FAQ for Parents/Guardians

COVID-19 related guidelines for returning to school in person.

Remember the 3 Ws... Wear a mask, Wash your hands, and Watch your distance.

****If your child has COVID-19, is considered a close contact to a person with COVID-19, or has a non-COVID related illness, they may continue learning by attending class remotely, if they feel well enough.**

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or greater or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

What are the Procedures for Students or Staff with COVID-19 like symptoms?

- ALL students and staff sent home or absent with any of the above COVID-19 like symptoms should be medically evaluated and diagnostically tested for COVID-19 and remain home until they receive the results. Additionally, all household members must stay home until Covid-19 is ruled out.
- If well enough, the student(s) should attend classes remotely.

If my child is a confirmed/probable case of COVID-19 or a close contact to a person with Covid-19, do I need to report this to the school?

- **Yes!** Please report a positive/probable COVID-19 case or close contact to a positive/probable Covid-19 case to the school as soon as possible. ****Please be prepared to speak with the school nurse or another member of the contact tracing team from EPCHS. This allows prompt communication from EPCHS to the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) and promotes mitigating the spread of COVID-19 infection, surveillance, and contact tracing. **The CCDPH will follow up with you daily**

via an electronic survey. When isolation or quarantine are completed a letter will be issued from CCDPH releasing the student to return to school.

What if my child is a Confirmed or Probable case of COVID-19 (Probable case means you have symptoms and are linked to a positive case, but have not been tested for COVID-19)?

- Confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 must complete a minimum 10 calendar days of isolation from the date of first symptom onset (or specimen collection date, if asymptomatic). They must also be fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms have improved before returning to school. A letter of release will be issued from the Cook County Department of Health.

Who is considered a close contact?

- Anyone who was within 6 feet of a confirmed/probable case of COVID-19 (with or without a face covering), for at least 15 minutes throughout the course of a day. The period of close contact begins 2 calendar days before the onset of symptoms (for a symptomatic person) or 2 calendar days before the positive sample was obtained (for an asymptomatic person). Close contacts to a confirmed/probable case of COVID-19 **are required to remain in quarantine at home for 14 calendar days starting from the last day of contact with the confirmed case.**

What if my child is sick, but it is not COVID-19?

- Students and staff diagnosed with a non-COVID illness must, at minimum, provide a negative Covid-19 test result **OR** a healthcare provider's note documenting the alternative diagnosis, **AND** be fever and symptom free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Additionally, all household members must stay home until Covid-19 is ruled out.
- If well enough, the student(s) should attend classes remotely.

Are there any resources for students and staff who need to be tested for Covid-19?

- **Yes!** EPOCHS has collaborated with **Family First Medical Group** located at 9730 S. Western Avenue in Evergreen Park. They will prioritize Covid-19 evaluation/testing for EPOCHS staff and students. If you need assistance please contact the school nurse.

Please click on the link below for additional information related to Covid-19 in Schools (subject to updates as more data becomes available)

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-COVID19-Exclusion-Decison-Tree.pdf>