



Chester County Health Department

Coronavirus COVID-19

Public and Private School Guidance

Issued: June 19, 2020

Updated: July 3, 2020; July 6, 2020; July 22, 2020; July 31, 2020; August 14, 2020; September 1, 2020; September 14, 2020; November 9, 2020; November 13, 2020; December 2, 2020; December 11, 2020

cases, it is important to not communicate that a school is moving to virtual due to quarantine requirements if the decision is based upon a school's ability to operate with the needed staff.

Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements

Please note that individuals cannot "test" out of quarantine or cannot be released from quarantine with only a physician's note¹. Please see guidance related to waiting for test results and alternative quarantine periods below.

Exclude Under These Scenarios	Return to School Under These Conditions	
<p>Current COVID-19 Symptoms¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or lack of smell or taste (without congestion). <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two of the following symptoms: fever/elevated temperature², sore throat, chills, muscle pain, fatigue, headache, congestion/runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea 	<p>Individual should be tested for COVID-19.</p> <p>If test result is negative, return to school following readmission criteria illustrated in PA Code, § 27.73. <i>Readmission of excluded children, and staff having contact with children.</i> If no alternative diagnosis is known, return to school 24 hours after symptoms are improved.</p> <p>If test result is positive, follow return to school guidance for Positive COVID-19 PCR Test with symptoms.</p> <p>If individual is not tested, exclude for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 24 hours with no fever without using fever-reducing medicines and ➤ improvement in symptoms and ➤ 10 days since symptoms first appeared <p>If individual is using medication to treat or suppress a fever, he/she should be excluded until medication is no longer needed.</p>	
<p>Positive COVID-19 PCR Test/Probable Case</p>	<p><u>With Symptoms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 24 hours with no fever without using fever-reducing medicines and ➤ improvement in symptoms and ➤ 10 days since symptoms first appeared 	<p><u>Without Symptoms*</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 10 days after the PCR test was collected <p>If symptoms develop during 10 days, follow return to school guidance for Positive COVID-19 PCR Test With Symptoms.</p>



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Exclude Under These Scenarios	Return to School Under These Conditions	
<p>Close Contact of COVID-19 Positive Individual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals within 6 feet distance for ≥ 15 minutes with the COVID-19 positive individual <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household members of COVID-19 positive individual 	<p>With Symptoms</p> <p>Individuals with symptoms are considered a COVID probable case and therefore follow guidance for Positive COVID-19 PCR Test/Probable Case.</p> <p>Individual should be tested for COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If test result is negative, return to school 14 days after last exposure to the person with COVID-19 and symptoms have resolved. ➤ If test result is positive, follow return to school guidance for Positive COVID-19 PCR Test with symptoms. <p>If individual is not tested, return to school 14 days after last exposure to the person with COVID-19 and symptoms have resolved.</p>	<p>Without Symptoms*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 14 days after the date of last exposure to the person with COVID-19 <p>If symptoms develop during 14 days, follow return to school guidance for Close Contact with Symptoms.</p>
<p>Travel History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel outside of Pennsylvania by individuals > 11 years old and travel > 24 hours. 	<p>With Symptoms</p> <p>Individual should be tested for COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If test result is negative, follow return to school 14 days after last exposure to the person with COVID-19 and symptoms have resolved. ➤ If test result is negative, return to school following readmission criteria illustrated in PA Code, § 	<p>Without Symptoms*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Negative COVID-19 test from specimen collected within 72 hours of arrival in PA or after arrival. Individuals must quarantine until results are received. <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 14 days since return to PA from travel



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Exclude Under These Scenarios	Return to School Under These Conditions	
	<p>27.73. <i>Readmission of excluded children, and staff having contact with children.</i> If no alternative diagnosis is known, return to school 24 hours after symptoms are improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If test result is positive, follow return to school guidance for Positive COVID-19 PCR Test with symptoms. <p>If individual is not tested, return to school 14 days after last exposure to the person with COVID-19 and symptoms have resolved.</p> <p>If individual is not tested, follow return to school guidance for Close Contact with Symptoms.</p>	<p>If symptoms develop during 14 days, follow return to school guidance for Close Contact with Symptoms.</p>
<p>Public Health or Physician Directed Testing</p>	<p>If test result is negative, return to school following readmission criteria illustrated in PA Code, § 27.73. <i>Readmission of excluded children, and staff having contact with children.</i> If no alternative diagnosis is known, return to school 24 hours after symptoms are improved.</p> <p>If test result is positive, follow return to school guidance for Positive COVID-19 PCR Test.</p> <p>If individual is using medication to treat or suppress a fever, he/she should be excluded until medication is no longer needed.</p>	

***See Alternative Quarantine Periods section.**

¹ For a current list of symptoms see CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>. Individuals with a known chronic condition that presents symptoms like those in either Group A or B may be exempt for those symptoms with documentation from a physician.



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² Fever/elevated temperature is based upon the mode by which the temperature is obtained:

Mode	Temperature for Fever
Walk through scanner	97.5°F or higher
Axillary and temporal	99.5°F or higher
Oral	100.4°F or higher

Notes:

- The 10 day period focuses on the time during which an individual is contagious (estimated infectious period). This is the focus of individuals with a positive test result.
- The 14 day period (quarantine) focuses on the time between exposure and development of illness (estimated incubation period). This is the focus for close contacts and for travel, because the exposed person could develop the illness at any time during the 14 days. They may be contagious even without symptoms. A negative test during quarantine does NOT end quarantine early.