



## COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions School Health Services

### What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- Fever or chills
- 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 or vomiting
- Diarrhea

\* This list does not include all possible symptoms and will be updated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as they learn more about COVID-19

### How is COVID-19 spread?

- According to the CDC, COVID-19 is thought to spread person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.

### What can be done to prevent the spread of illness?

- Stay at home if you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is not available
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Cover your nose and mouth when around others

### Will my child be required to wear a cloth face covering?

- A cloth face covering shall not be required for persons who present school officials with a certification from a health care provider that the person has a medical, physical, or psychological condition that prevents the person from being able to safely wear a cloth face covering. The student will then be expected to wear a face shield, unless otherwise indicated in the certification by the health care provider. Health care provider is defined as a Medical Doctor (MD, DO), Physician Assistant (PA), or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), Mental Health Professional (Psychologist, Licensed Mental Health Counselor).

**What is daily home screening?**

- The CDC recommends that the parent/guardian conduct a daily home screening on their child each morning before they leave for school. The child should be checked for a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, sore throat, uncontrolled cough, diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal and/or new onset of headache. If they have any of these symptoms, it is recommended that the child is evaluated by their healthcare provider and discuss possible COVID-19 testing.

**What happens when a student or staff member is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at school?**

- Any student or staff member exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home. A separate waiting space will be designated for those students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. A parent or guardian will be called, and that parent is expected to pick the student up within one hour (60 minutes). If a parent cannot be reached, or has not arrived within an hour, the emergency contact person will be called to pick up the student. It is recommended that the child's health care provider or the local health department is contacted regarding testing.

**What do I do if my child or a member of my household tests positive for COVID-19?**

- Parents are encouraged to notify the school immediately upon learning of a positive COVID-19 test. The child and household members should remain home and contact the local health department for further guidance.

**If my child tests positive for COVID-19, what criteria is being used to come back to school?**

- If an individual tests positive, the local health department will provide instructions to the person and household contacts about when it is safe to return to work/school.

**When a student tests positive, who is informed of this and who performs the contact tracing?**

- The school will follow direction from the Florida Department of Health – Duval regarding communication to students, families and staff. The Florida Department of Health – Duval will lead contact tracing and investigation efforts. The School Health Services team will assist with identifying close contacts of students and staff.

**When contact tracing is performed what criteria are being used to determine who is a considered a "close contact"?**

- A close contact is any individual who has been within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes during their infectious period, which includes the 48 hours before the day the person became sick (or the 48 hours before specimen collection if asymptomatic) until the person was

isolated. All close contacts will be asked to quarantine and monitor for symptoms. If an individual becomes symptomatic during quarantine they should get tested for COVID-19.

**If a child/staff is considered a close contact of a positive case and needs to get tested, will they need to stay quarantined until a negative test?**

- An asymptomatic close contact will need to quarantine for the full 14 days and monitor for symptoms, regardless of a negative test.

**During a potential quarantine how will my child participate in school?**

- If an entire class needs to quarantine for 14 days, they will transition to Duval HomeRoom.

**What testing is considered necessary after exposure to COVID-19 and symptoms develop?**

- The Florida Department of Health recommends a PCR or antigen test.
- PCR Test – Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) looks for pieces of SARS-CoV-2, in the nose, throat, or other areas in the respiratory tract to determine if the person has an active infection.
- Antigen Test – looks for pieces of proteins that make up the SARS-CoV-2 virus to determine if the person has an active infection.

**What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?**

- Isolation is what you do if you tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19. You should stay home and away from others (including household members) as directed by the local health department to avoid spreading illness.
- Quarantine is what you do if you have been exposed to COVID-19. You should stay home and away from others as directed by the local health department and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. Quarantine becomes isolation if you later test positive for COVID-19 or develop symptoms.

**Are nebulizers allowed at school?**

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of nebulizers should NOT be used in schools. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, there is limited data on whether they increase the spread of COVID-19. Parents/guardians should work with their child's pediatrician to provide an alternate procedure (e.g., inhaler with spacer).

**Does my child need to be current with their immunizations in order to participate in Duval HomeRoom or DVIA?**

- Immunizations are more important than ever and all students should be current on their immunizations unless they have an exemption on file.

**For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit the following sites:**

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- DOH: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/index.html>

**What is the contact number for Florida Department of Health – Duval Office of Epidemiology?**

- 904-253-1850

**What is the contact information for the Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center?**

- 866-779-6121
- COVID-19@flhealth.gov