

# Student Home Screening Protocol

To ensure students are healthy enough to attend in-person instruction, parents/guardians are to perform a symptom check every day before the student leaves home. A student having any of the following symptoms should not be sent to school and may continue to access their classrooms virtually if they are well enough to do so: Maryland Department of Health Response to COVID 19 Positive Cases or COVID 19 Like Illness.

- **1 of the following:**

- New onset cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing;
- New loss of taste or smell;

**OR**

- **2 of the following:**

- Fever over 100.4 or chills within the past 24 hours;
- Fatigue;
- Muscle or body aches;
- Headache;
- Sore throat;
- Congestion or runny nose;
- Chills or shaking chills;
- Nausea or vomiting;
- Diarrhea.

Additionally, students who have been in close contact (within < 6 feet for a cumulative of >15 minutes over the past 24 hours with or without a mask) with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 (exhibiting Covid-like Illness and has not tested negative after exhibiting symptoms) should not enter any HCPSS building.

Parents/guardians will assess their children for symptoms of COVID-19 illness and refrain from sending/transporting them to school until after they have been symptom-free at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms, have no fever for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication, and have continued improvement of symptoms and/or medical consult with their primary care physician.

## Isolation, Exclusion, Quarantine and Return to School Protocol

If a student or school staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19-like illness during the school day, the school will:

- Safely isolate the person in the designated isolation area and place a surgical mask on the person if they are not wearing a cloth face covering as appropriate;
- The School Health Services staff member should don the appropriate PPE and conduct the appropriate determination of the student's condition based on presenting symptoms;

- Begin the process for the person to vacate the school as soon as possible; A student determined to be a close contact with a person with verified COVID-19 must quarantine for 14 days per HCHD child care guidelines.

A staff member determined to be a close contact with a person with verified COVID-19 must quarantine for 14 days, with the possibility of release at 10 days under certain circumstances. Staff in quarantine must be out of school for the 10-day minimum regardless of a negative test result, while students must remain out of school for a full 14 day quarantine.

Students or staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 should isolate and not return to school until they have been out at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms or positive test without symptoms, remain fever-free for 24 hours, and show a consistent improvement of symptoms. The Decision Aid below, developed by the Maryland Department of Health, will be utilized to determine exclusion and quarantine durations for confirmed COVID-19 cases and persons with COVID-19 like illnesses.

HCPSS will contact all parents of students who will need to be quarantined as a result of exposure/potential exposure. Any individual who may have been exposed is contacted during contact tracing. HCPSS will contact all employees who will need to quarantine as a result of exposure and will enact all protocols with schools as recommended by the Howard County Health Department (HCHD). Any HCPSS communications will protect confidential personal information.

## **Class or School Outbreak**

For schools, the Maryland Department of Health defines a classroom outbreak in any K-12 school, both public and private, regardless of size as two or more laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases among students/teachers/staff with onset of symptoms (if asymptomatic, use date COVID test obtained) within a 14-day period and who are epidemiologically linked, but not non-household contacts. HCPSS will move a class to fully virtual instruction if it meets this definition or based on a Howard County Health Department recommendation. In the event that a classroom needs to be closed for an outbreak, the school will communicate with families the details pertaining to the change to virtual instruction.

The Maryland Department of Health defines a school-wide outbreak as three or more classrooms or cohorts with cases from separate households that meet the classroom/cohort outbreak definition that occurs within 14 days or five percent or more unrelated students/teachers/staff have confirmed COVID19 within a 14-day period (minimum of 10 unrelated students/teachers/staff). HCPSS will move a school to fully virtual instruction if it meets either condition of this definition, if insufficient staff are available for the safe and efficient operation of the school, or based on a Howard County Health Department recommendation. In the event that a school needs to be closed for an outbreak, HCPSS as well as the school will communicate with families the change to virtual instruction for the safe and efficient operation of the school, or based on a Howard County Health Department recommendation. In the event that

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