

Dear Parents,

MCDH has created an infographic for parents that provides a summary of key school guidance for COVID-19 positive cases, close contacts, and symptomatic students. The infographic has been posted on their website and can be found at

<https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/105370>.



My Child is Impacted by COVID-19. What Do I Do Now?

My Child is...

1. Positive for COVID-19 - 10 Day Exclusion Period

Exclusion through day 10 with release on day 11.

Exclusion is calculated 10 days from the date of symptom onset (or date of positive test for asymptomatic individuals).

Note: A student who tests positive will still be excluded even if they obtain a negative test result from other tests.

2. Vaccinated and a Close Contact - No Exclusion Period

(Unless your child develops symptoms)

Recommended to test 5-7 days post exposure

3. Unvaccinated and a Close Contact

Option 1 - 14 Day Exclusion Period (Standard Exclusion Period)

Exclusion through day 14 with release on day 15.

Option 2* - 10 Day Exclusion Period

Exclusion through day 10 with release on day 11.

Student must obtain a negative PCR test on day 8 or 9.

Rapid and Antigen tests not accepted.

Option 3* - 7 Day Exclusion Period

Exclusion through day 7 with release on day 8.

In high transmission, student must obtain a negative PCR test that was collected on day 6 or 7.

Rapid and Antigen tests not accepted.

**Note: Options 2 and 3 above may not be available to all students. The availability of these options is determined by the school and/or MCDH and may change based on the circumstances of your child's exposure to COVID-19 or the level of community transmission in McHenry County.*

These options are for return to school and/or extracurriculars only. The student should follow the standard exclusion period (14 days) outside of these settings.

4. A Close Contact to a Household Member who Tested Positive

For vaccinated students - No Exclusion Period

(Unless your child develops symptoms)

Recommended to test 5-7 days post exposure

For unvaccinated students – 14 day Exclusion Period

Exclusion for 14 days from last exposure with household member.

If case and close contact cannot separate from each other, exclusion will be longer than the standard 14 days.

5. Having COVID-19 Symptoms (Who is Not a Known Close Contact or Part of an Outbreak)

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever (100.4°F or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of sense of taste or smell, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches from unknown cause.

Option 1 – Return to School

After receiving a negative COVID-19 test result from a local pharmacy or clinic.

Test must be done within 48 hours of symptom onset.

Option 2 – Remain Home

If not tested within 48 hours of onset, must stay home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

Note: Your child's siblings may stay in school if the symptomatic child is tested for COVID-19 within 24 hours of symptom onset. If your symptomatic child is not tested within 48 hours of symptom onset, siblings must remain home for 10 days from the onset of your symptomatic child's symptoms.

Even if your child tests negative for COVID-19, they should not return to school while experiencing certain symptoms (such as fever, vomiting, or diarrhea). Please follow your school's guidelines with regards to when a student can return to school for illnesses other than COVID-19.

This document provides a summary of how a COVID-19 positive, close contact, or symptomatic student may be impacted. Please note, each individual case will be evaluated on its own merits and MCDH has final say on all cases. Please reference the McHenry County P-12 Interim School Guidance for more information and updates due to increased transmission level of COVID-19.

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