



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Fayette County Public Health

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR FAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Updated: 08/05/2020

Thank you for the great collaboration between the school districts and Fayette Public Health Department during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The restarting of Education Fall 2020 is largely based upon two documents;

- 1) "Reset and Restart Education: Planning Guide for Ohio Schools and Districts", released 6/20/2020
- 2) "COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for OHIO K-12 SCHOOLS", released 6/20/2020

This 2020-2021 School year will definitely look and feel different from previous years. Students could possibly be sent home for symptoms they previously were allowed to remain in the classroom for. This will be necessary for the safety of everyone.

It is essential for schools to reinforce to students, parents or caregivers, and staff the importance of students staying home when sick until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever (temperature of 100 or higher) or signs of a fever (chills, feeling very warm, flushed appearance, or sweating) WITHOUT the use of fever-reducing medicine. Policies that encourage and support staying home when sick will help prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-19 (and other illnesses including flu) and help keep schools open.

- People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of reported symptoms – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to SARS-CoV-2.
- CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools.

1. Positive Diagnosis of COVID-19: student or staff member

- a. Parents & staff will be informed which classroom the confirmed case is in. There will be no identification of actual positive individuals.
- b. The school district will work closely with FCPH for contact tracing.
- c. Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 will be ordered to isolate by FCPH and released from isolation by FCPH
- d. 14-day quarantine will be required of any student/staff member determined to have had close contact with a COVID-19 Case as determined by FCPH.
- e. The FCPH will notify anyone that is considered a close contact of a positive case with instructions on how and when to quarantine.

*** Communication will come from Fayette County Public Health (FCPH) not the school district.**

2. Other student health issues that are NOT diagnosed as COVID-19

- a. Schools shall send home any child or employee who has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher. This individual may not return until they are fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication
- b. When the child returns to school, the teacher may choose to have them checked by the nurse if deemed necessary
- c. If the individual has had contact with someone confirmed or probable to have COVID-19, they must complete quarantine procedures as directed by the FCPH prior to returning to school.

3. Food Service

All districts will offer food service. Logistics will be determined by each district in compliance with FCPH based on:

- a. Reduced capacity/occupancy or 10 students maximum per table and 3- 6 foot spacing between table edges
- b. No self-service
- c. Individual condiments
- d. Students should wash or sanitize their hands prior to eating

4. Classroom Size

- a. Districts will inform parents that safety protocols are in place but any student who attends school will incur some level of risk. Districts will decrease the likelihood of infection with hygiene, cleaning, and safety procedures, but being in a public place has a certain level of risk that cannot be eliminated.
- b. Classroom occupancy will be determined based on each individual circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible.
- c. Face coverings (that cover the nose and the mouth) are required for all students K-12 unless there is a medical reason for not wearing them or if social distancing can be implemented.
- d. School employees will be required to use a face covering when they are within six feet of other people.
- e. Assigned seating is highly recommended by FCPH to aid in contact tracing should that become necessary.

5. Visitors and Volunteers

- a. Visitors are generally discouraged from being in school district facilities.
- b. Safety protocols such as taking temperatures, wearing masks, screening questions (sick, travel or contact with positive case) and signing in with a contact phone number will be required for all visitors.

6. Transportation

- a. FCPH recommends assigned seating to determine who must be quarantined if there is a positive case that rides the bus.
- b. Disinfect high touch surfaces on buses after completing each route.
- c. Face masks are required for drivers and students

7. Recess:

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (2013), "Recess represents an essential, planned respite from rigorous cognitive tasks. It affords a time to rest, play, imagine, think, move and socialize." Health Guidelines are to be followed (physical and social distancing) for recess periods.

- a. School districts will make every effort to maintain consistency with other safety procedures.
- b. This may mean that districts limit student access to certain pieces of playground equipment and restrict activities that are "high touch" and difficult to clean or maintain social distancing.

- c. All districts will work toward “structured” recess activities such as nature walks that limit students’ physical contact with others.
- d. Students must sanitize their hands before and after recess
- e. Parents may choose to “opt out” of recess for their children

8. Returning to School after COVID-19 illness (symptomatic)

- a. 1 day (24 hours) with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) and
- b. other symptoms improved and
- c. 10 days since symptoms first appeared

9. Returning to School after COVID-19 (asymptomatic)

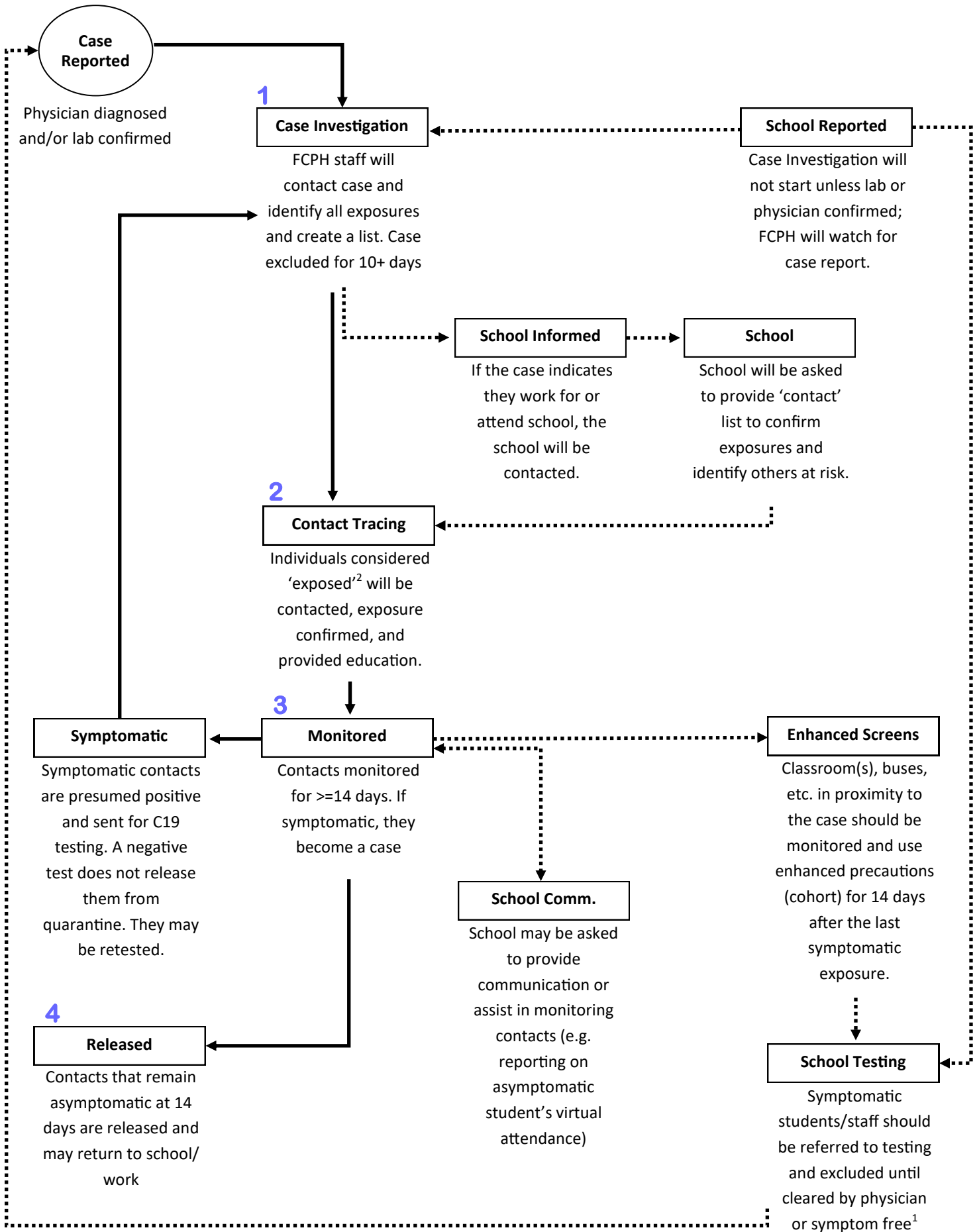
- a. 10 days have passed since test without any symptoms developing

10. Communication and Education

- a. Communication and education for parents and caregivers will be exceedingly important to the schools remaining open.

This is only a guideline and could change at any given time with guidance for ODH, ODE and CDC.

COVID-19 Monitoring and Case Investigation Response Plan Diagram, SY 20-21



¹ At a minimum, schools should follow the ODH (CDC) guidance for symptom identification and school exclusion

² CDC considers ≥ 15 minutes within 6', regardless of mask use, 2020-07-31

COVID-19 Monitoring and Case Investigation Response Plan Diagram, SY 20-21

CDC Guidance, Updated July 23,

SECTION 1: Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

- Temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- Sore throat
- **New** uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19 [regardless of the use of a mask by either individual]
- Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases as described in the [Community Mitigation Framework](#)
- Live in areas of high community transmission (as described in the [Community Mitigation Framework](#)) while the school remains open

SECTION 3: Return-to-School Policies

If the student/parent/caregiver **answers YES to any question in Section 1 but NO to any questions in Section 2**, the student would be excused from school in accordance with existing school illness management policy (e.g., until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications).

If the student or parent or caregiver **answers YES to any question in Section 1 and YES to any question in Section 2**, the student should be referred for evaluation by their healthcare provider and possible testing. CDC strongly encourages local health departments to work with local school systems to develop a strategy to refer symptomatic individuals to an appropriate healthcare provider or testing site. State, Tribal, territorial, and local health officials and/or healthcare providers will determine when [viral testing](#) for SARS-CoV-2 is appropriate. Schools should not require testing results as a part of return to school policies. Students who have received a negative test result should be allowed to return to school once their symptoms have otherwise improved in accordance with existing school illness management policies.

Students diagnosed with COVID-19 or who answer YES to any question in Section 1 and YES to any question in Section 2 without negative test results should stay home, isolate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department. Students and their families should be advised that the local health department may contact the family for contact tracing. If contacted, families should notify the contract tracer that the student attended school.

Students diagnosed with COVID-19 or who answer YES to any component of Section 1 AND YES to any component of Section 2 without negative test results should be permitted to return to school should be in line with current CDC recommendations in "[When Can I Be Around Others](#)". A negative test or doctor's note should **not** be required for return. Questions regarding return to school should be jointly decided in consultation with parents or caregivers, school personnel, and the student's healthcare provider.