

Entering School and Screening

Guidance for Schools K-12: Entering school and screening

- The TDH and CDC currently recommend daily symptom (and temperature if possible) screening by families in their homes prior to school each day.
- The Tennessee Department of Health suggests the following symptoms are potentially COVID-19 symptoms and should apply to anyone attending or working in a school (i.e. children and adults in schools):
 - New, worsening cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Fever (temperature of 100.4°F or greater) or feeling feverish
 - Sore throat
 - Muscle aches and pains
 - Headache
 - Nasal congestion/runny nose
 - Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea/abdominal pain

Families can also check their children's temperatures at home. Parents should keep their child at home if he or she has any of these symptoms. If a child is behaving as though he or she does not feel well or feels feverish (feels cold, staying under blankets, shivering) or hot to the touch, the child should be kept home.

If a child has any of the higher-risk symptoms (fever/feverishness, cough, shortness of breath or loss of taste/smell or has two or more of the other symptoms) the child should be seen by his or her health care provider (see Section 5). These children should be tested for COVID-19 if possible.

If a child has only one of the lower-risk symptoms (sore throat, headache, muscle aches, headache, congestion or gastrointestinal symptoms) then he or she should be kept home for observation for other symptoms. The siblings of a child with high-risk symptoms should be kept home until it is determined if the child has COVID-19.

Anyone who is a close contact (household contact or within 6 feet for ≥ 15 minutes) of a known COVID-19 case should stay home for 14 days.

Isolation and return to school rules following illness are found in Section 7.

Should COVID-19 community transmission drop to and remain at a lower level, the need for testing and exclusion for these symptoms will be reassessed.

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Guidance for Schools K-12 Algorithms for Handling Ill Children and Staff

School Nurse Algorithm: Screen all students for potential COVID-19 symptoms or exposure: Any new **fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste/smell**, fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$), congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, sore throat, headache, myalgia, or exposure* to COVID-19 positive person?

