Return to School Flowchart

A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Notify the school nurse.

Schools will work in coordination with the health department to determine close contacts of this person.

Close contacts (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) will be contacted directly by the health department. **Close contacts should quarantine for up to 14 days based on guidance from the health department/school nurse.***

Other students and staff should self-monitor for symptoms but can continue at school on campus.

Does the individual have symptoms of COVID-19?
- Fever *(temperature of 100.4 °F or higher)*
- New loss of taste or smell
- New onset of severe headache, especially with fever
- Cough *(for people with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in cough from baseline)*
- Difficulty breathing *(for people with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)*
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea or vomiting

YES

Isolate at home. The individual should quarantine for 10 days after their last contact with the positive case, and not leave home except to seek medical care.*

The individual can return to school on campus and other activities when **ALL** of the following are true:
- It has been at least 10 days since they first had symptoms **AND**
- They have not had a fever for 1 day (24 hours) without any fever reducing medication **AND**
- Their other symptoms have improved.

NO

Isolate at home. Avoid others in the household and do not leave home except to seek medical care.

This person can return to school on campus and other activities after 10 days from the date of their first positive COVID-19 test.

If this person develops symptoms after testing, use criteria to the left.

Individual quarantine periods to be determined by school nurses based on testing and symptoms. A **14-day quarantine is required for student-athletes participating in sports that cannot strictly adhere to wearing face coverings AND maintaining 6 feet of distance at all times (per CDC guidelines)*

QUESTIONS?

Contact your child's school nurse for guidance and further details.

This flow chart is based on recommendations from CDC and guidance from NCDHHS last updated August 10, 2021. For more information, see the NCDHHS StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit updated online at www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov/guidance#schools.