

**Policy**

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READMITTANCE – COVID-19

Daily Home Screening for Students

Staying away from others helps stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Therefore, parents/guardians and are encouraged to conduct a daily home screening for COVID-19 symptoms on their child before the child leaves for school.

The following short check list shall be completed each morning by the parent/guardian. Parents/guardians shall report information indicating that the child may need to be excused to the school nurse:

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 100.4 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
- Traveled to or lived in an area where the local or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases as described in the [Community Mitigation Framework](#)
- Lived in areas of high community transmission (as described in the [Community Mitigation Framework](#)) while the school remains open

Return-to-School

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 shall be referred for an evaluation by their healthcare provider and possible testing. The school nurse shall consult with the local health department to develop a strategy to refer symptomatic individuals to an appropriate healthcare provider or testing site.

Testing results as a part of return to school policy are not required. Students who have received a negative test result should be allowed to return to school once their symptoms have otherwise improved.

READMITTANCE – COVID-19 (continued)

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 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 shall be permitted to return to school when in line with current CDC recommendations in [“When Can I Be Around Others”](#) (see exhibit). A negative test or doctor’s note is **not** required for return. Questions regarding return to school shall be jointly decided in consultation with parents or caregivers, school personnel, and the student’s healthcare provider.

Students who are excluded from school shall be afforded the opportunity, as soon as feasible when they are well enough to participate in classwork, to make up any missed classwork without penalty in order to reduce mental or physical anxieties about missed academic opportunities.

School Isolation Protocols

Some students may develop symptoms of infectious illness while at school. The school nurse shall be notified immediately and take action to isolate students who develop these symptoms from other students and staff:

- A. Students with any of the symptoms in Section 1 shall follow board policy 5141.1 Illness to minimize transmission to others, to optimize learning opportunities, and to allow for these symptoms to resolve (at least 24 hours without fever reducing medications or in accordance with existing school illness policy);
- B. Students who develop any of the symptoms in Section 1 while at school shall be placed in an isolation area separate from staff and other students:
  1. School staff (e.g., workers, teacher aides, school health staff) who interact with a student who becomes ill while at school should use [Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions](#) when caring for sick people;
  2. Students who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow [CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others](#) who are sick;
  3. Students identified at school who develop any of the symptoms in Section 1 and answer YES to any of the questions in Section 2 should be placed in an isolation area separate from staff and other students (e.g., a nurse’s office) and then sent home or to a healthcare facility if symptoms indicate a need for further evaluation:
    - a. If an ambulance is called, the healthcare staff shall be notified that the student may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19;
    - b. After the student is placed in an isolation area, school staff who work in the isolation area should follow CDC’s [Considerations for Cleaning and Disinfecting your Building or Facility](#).

Note: The school nurse or other responsible staff members shall be mindful of appropriate safeguards to ensure that the student is isolated in a non-threatening manner, within the line of sight of adults, and for very short periods of time.

Confirmed Person with COVID-19 in the School Building

Short-term closure procedures may be implemented when there is a confirmed case of a student or staff member who was in the school building and found to have the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The board directs the chief school administrator to act according to the following CDC recommended procedures regardless of the level of community spread:

READMITTANCE – COVID-19 (continued)Coordinate with Local Health Officials

Once learning of a COVID-19 case in someone who has been in the school, the school nurse shall immediately notify local health officials. The local health officials shall be consulted in determining the course of action for the schools.

Dismiss Students and Most Staff for 2-5 Days

This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the local health officials to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19:

- A. Local health officials' recommendations for the scope (e.g., a single school, multiple schools, the full district) and duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific cases in the community;
- B. Extracurricular group activities, school-based afterschool programs, and large events (e.g., assemblies, spirit nights, field trips, and sporting events) shall be cancelled during school dismissals;
- C. Staff, students, and their families shall be discouraged from gathering or socializing anywhere. This includes group child care arrangements, as well as gathering at places like a friend's house, a favorite restaurant, or the local shopping mall.

Communication

The chief school administrator or his or her designee shall communicate with and provide updated information to staff, parents/guardians, and students. The chief school administrator or his or her designee shall coordinate with local health officials to communicate dismissal decisions and the possible COVID-19 exposure:

- A. This communication to the school community should align with the communication plan in the school's emergency operations plan;
- B. The plan shall include messages to counter potential stigma and discrimination;
- C. The confidentiality of the student or staff member information as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act shall be maintained.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- A. Areas used by the individuals with COVID-19 shall be closed off. Maintenance staff shall wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Maintenance staff shall open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, maintenance staff shall wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection;
- B. Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces;
- C. If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection;
- D. For disinfection most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective:

READMITTANCE – COVID-19 (continued)

1. A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>. The manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products shall be followed (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.);
  2. Additionally, diluted household bleach solutions may be used if appropriate for the surface. Manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation shall be strictly observed. Maintenance/cleaning staff shall check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Household bleach shall not be mixed with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted. Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
    - a. 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water; or
    - b. 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
- E. Additional information on cleaning and disinfection of community facilities such as schools can be found on [CDC's website](#).

Making Decisions about Extending the School Dismissal

Temporarily dismissing child care programs and K-12 schools is a strategy to stop or slow the further spread of COVID-19 in communities:

- A. During school dismissals (after cleaning and disinfection), the schools may stay open for staff members (unless ill) while students stay home. Keeping facilities open:
1. Allows teachers to develop and deliver lessons and materials remotely, thus maintaining continuity of teaching and learning; and
  2. Allows other staff members to continue to provide services and help with additional response efforts.

The chief school administrator in consultation with the local health officials shall determine which, if any, staff should be allowed in the school;

- B. The chief school administrator shall work in close collaboration and coordination with local health officials to make dismissal and large event cancellation decisions. Schools are not expected to make decisions about dismissal or canceling events on their own. School dismissals and event cancellations may be extended if advised by local health officials. The nature of these actions (e.g., geographic scope, duration) may change as the local outbreak situation evolves.
- C. The chief school administrator shall seek guidance from local health officials to determine when students and staff should return to the school and what additional steps are needed for the school community. In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.

Ensuring Continuity of Education.

- A. Continuity plans, including plans for the continuity of teaching and learning shall be reviewed by teaching staff members and administrators. E-learning plans, including digital and distance learning options shall be implemented as feasible and appropriate;
- B. The chief school administrator in consultation with school district staff and officials or other relevant state or local partners shall determine:

READMITTANCE – COVID-19 (continued)

1. If a waiver is needed for state requirements of a minimum number of in-person instructional hours or school days (seat time) as a condition for funding;
2. How to convert face-to-face lessons into online lessons and how to train teachers to do so;
3. How to triage technical issues if faced with limited IT support and staff;
4. How to encourage appropriate adult supervision while children are using distance learning approaches; and
5. How to deal with the potential lack of students' access to computers and the Internet at home.

Distributing Food to Students

If there is community spread of COVID-19, the chief school administrator or his or her designee shall design strategies to avoid distribution in settings where people might gather in a group or crowd. Options such as “grab-and-go” bagged lunches or meal delivery shall be considered.

Alternatives for Providing Essential Medical and Social Services for Students

Necessary services for children with special healthcare needs shall be provided as necessary and appropriate. The district may work with the state Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program in providing essential medical and social services.

Adopted: November 24, 2020

Key Words

Coronavirus, COVID-19, Sickness, Illness, Isolation, Return to School

<b>Legal References:</b>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:16-6 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:16-6.1  <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-3 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-7 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-8  <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-10 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-11 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-12 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-25  <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:2T-1 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:4-6 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:4-15 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:5C-1 <u>et seq.</u> <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1 <u>et seq.</u> <u>See particularly:</u> <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.3, -2.1 <u>et seq.</u> <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-1.1 <u>et seq.</u> <u>See particularly:</u> <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-1.3, -1.7, -2	Indemnity of officers and employees against civil actions Indemnity of officers and employees in certain criminal actions Lectures to teachers Exclusion of pupils who are ill Exclusion of pupils whose presence is detrimental to health and cleanliness Exclusion of teachers and pupils exposed to disease Exclusion of pupils having communicable tuberculosis Closing schools during epidemic Boards of education to provide nursing care to students in nonpublic schools Newly diagnosed Hepatitis C case; information, reports Prohibiting attendance of teachers or pupils Reporting of communicable diseases by physicians AIDS Assistance Act Programs to Support Student Development  Reportable Communicable Diseases
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**Resources:**

Restart & Recovery Plan: The Road Back, NJDOE. <https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/>

READMITTANCE – COVID-19 (continued)

*When You Can be Around Others*, CDC. [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html)

*Schools & Child Care: Plan, Prepare, and Respond*, CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

**Possible**

<b><u>Cross References:</u></b>	*1410	Local units
	*4112.4/4212.4	Employee health
	*4131/4131.1	Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
	*5113	Attendance, absences and excuses
	*5125	Pupil records
	*5141	Health
	*5141.1	Accidents
	*5141.2	Illness
	*5141.4	Child abuse and neglect
	*5200	Nonpublic school pupils

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.