



SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF PEORIA COUNTY

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August 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

As things continue to evolve and change, it is important to keep our parents, students and staff as up-to-date as possible. The purpose of this letter is to update you in regards to all that happens when a child is unwell, has COVID-like symptoms, or is in close contact to someone who is a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case.

First of all, thank you to all parents/guardians who have been diligent in watching for symptoms and taking their children into the doctor or to be tested if they have COVID-like symptoms! We know how disruptive this can be to your home/work schedule, however, with everyone working together we can keep students and staff healthy. I have attached the latest guidance from the IDPH for COVID-19 Exclusion from School Guidance. It should be helpful to you in making decisions or, at least, understanding why we are making the decisions we are making.

If your child has one or more COVID symptoms, they should stay home or will be sent home. It is recommended that they be evaluated by their doctor and get a COVID test. See the following scenarios for guidelines at a glance:

- If you take your child to be tested, and it comes back negative (and the child is symptom free), documentation of the negative test is required (see recommendations for testing sites that provide the most timely documentation below)
- If your physician determines that the symptoms are related to an alternative diagnosis, ask him/her for a note with the named alternative diagnosis and date for a return to school
- If the symptoms are related to a known condition (ie. allergies, reactions to medicines, etc) for which the child has been under care for, ask for a note with the named condition for which the child is undercare and a return to school date.
- If your child has COVID symptoms, the rest of the school-aged children in the home will be 'quarantined' at home until an alternative diagnosis, negative test result, or 10 calendar days have passed.
- Students who are quarantined must stay home 14 calendar days from last exposure

In an effort to get documentation of testing results in the quickest manner, we have received the following recommendations for Peoria County:

- Go to your family physician and get testing through that health system, or
- Go to Heartland Health Services at 2321 N. Wisconsin Ave, Peoria IL 61603
 - Mon - Fri: 9:00am - 4:00pm and Sat. 9:00am - 1:00pm
 - Drive-up or walk-up options available as well as by appointment
 - Open to individuals with or without COVID-19 symptoms
 - For more information call 309-495-8659 or visit <https://pcchd.org/299/testing>

Other testing sites, such as the Civic Center or pharmacies, are available, but it has been our experience that the documentation from these sites takes longer as it is sent in the mail or has not been provided in some cases.

So far we have had no positive cases within our school setting. This is encouraging! However, we are operating under the assumption that it is not IF the virus will affect our school, but WHEN. We will notify parents/guardians any time there is a positive case that may impact their child. Until that time, know that we work vigilantly every day to ensure that all students and staff follow all safety practices and do all that we can to minimize exposure to the COVID virus. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of our program administrators or myself and we will do our best to address your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lora Haas, Director
Brooke Mair, SA Principal
Katrina Craven, RISE Administrator
Kerry Klesath, DC Administrator



COVID-19 EXCLUSION GUIDANCE¹

Decision Tree for Symptomatic Individuals in Pre-K, K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs

Send home or deny entry (and provide remote instruction) if ANY of the following symptoms are present: Fever (100.4°F or higher), headache, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle or body aches.

In addition, some individuals (especially adults) may present with the following symptoms: congestion or runny nose, new loss of sense of taste or smell, nausea, fatigue, muscle or body aches.

Medical Evaluation and Testing are **Strongly Recommended for ALL Persons with COVID-Like Symptoms.**

Status	COVID-19 diagnostic test Positive (confirmed case) OR COVID-19 diagnosis without diagnostic testing (probable case)	Symptomatic individual with a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test ² (Negative COVID-19 diagnostic test must be from a specimen collected 48 hours prior to or after symptom onset.)	Symptomatic individual with an alternative COVID-19 diagnostic test ²	Symptomatic individual without diagnostic testing or clinical evaluation	Asymptomatic individual who is a close contact to a confirmed OR probable COVID-19 case
Evaluated by Healthcare Provider?	YES	YES / NO	YES	NO	NA
Return to School Guidance	Stay home at least 10 ³ calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement of symptoms.	Stay home until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition. Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools .	Stay home until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition. Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools .	Stay home at least 10 ³ calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement of symptoms.	Stay home for 14 calendar days after last exposure to the COVID-19 case. If COVID-19 illness develops, use the ten-day isolation period ¹ guidance for a COVID-19 case from the onset date. Testing is recommended.
Quarantine for Close Contacts?	YES	NO	NO	Household Member (e.g., Siblings, Parent) ⁴	NA
Documentation Required to Return to School	'Release from Isolation' letter issued by Local Health Department and provided to parent/guardian or individual	Negative COVID-19 test result OR healthcare Provider's note indicating the negative test result	Healthcare Provider's note with alternative diagnosis	Note from parent/guardian documenting that the ill student and/or household contacts are afebrile without fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved.	'Release from Quarantine' letter issued by Local Health Department and provided to parent/guardian or individual

¹ Based on available data and science, schools must make local decisions informed by local context in consultation with their local public health department.

² Severely immunocompromised or severely ill: may need to isolate for 20 days as per guidance from individual's infectious disease physician.

³ If individual has been identified by public health for quarantine or knows they are a close contact to a case, the 14-calendar-day quarantine must be completed.

⁴ Consider quarantine for other close contacts if there was poor adherence to social distancing or use of face coverings.

8/20/2020 Interim Guidance,
Subject to updates