



SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF PEORIA COUNTY
4812 W. PFEIFFER ROAD
BARTONVILLE, IL 61607

SERVE • EDUCATE • PREPARE

October 29, 2020

Dr. Lora Haas
Director

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Member Districts

62 Pleasant Valley
63 Norwood
66 Bartonville
68 Oak Grove
69 Pleasant Hill
70 Monroe
265 Farmington
309 Brimfield
310 Limestone Comm. High
316 Limestone-Walters
321 Ill. Valley Central
322 Elmwood
323 Dunlap
325 Peoria Heights
326 Princeville
327 Illini Bluffs
328 Hollis

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

I hope you are all staying as healthy as possible during flu and cold season and the ongoing pandemic. As our positivity rate and cases increase in our area, I feel the need to put out a few reminders and inform you all of new/additional COVID testing options, and what we will be requiring for documentation after talking to our local Health Department this week.

Reminders:

- Any time a student or staff member experiences COVID-like symptoms they must remain home until they receive a negative COVID test or get an alternative diagnosis from a physician
- When one child in a family/household is home due to symptoms, all other school aged household members must stay home until there is a negative COVID test or an alternative diagnosis from a physician
- Develop a back-up plan for when your child or child's school may need to move to remote learning for a week or two

Testing protocols:

- We still have the 'gold standard' viral test, which is the long nasal swab test (RT-PCR) that is considered the most accurate. You may also have an option to have a rapid Point of Care (POC) antigen or molecular test that will give a reading in about 15 minutes
- Due to the current moderate/high community transmission, our local Health Department has advised school districts of the following in regards to testing:
 - A positive result from either the rapid test (POC-Ag/molecular) or long swab test (RT-PCR) are accurate – and should be considered as such when documentation is presented
 - A negative result on the rapid test (POC) is considered a possible false negative and the long swab (RT-PCR) test will need to be also be collected within 48 hours to confirm the reading
 - Basically this means that if you get a negative result from the rapid test you will still need the other test



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Lastly, I want to thank students and staff for their hard work in the school setting in making sure learning can take place while still following our mitigating factors of wearing masks, staying socially distant, and using good hand hygiene. Because of this diligence, we have done so much better at staying in school than I ever expected. I know how fatigued everyone is with this pandemic and the impact it has in and outside of school, which makes me even more impressed with our staff and students!

Please stay healthy and safe! I have attached the most updated Exclusion Guidance from the IDPH to this letter for your reference.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lora Haas
SEAPCO Director

COVID-19 INTERIM 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 symptoms² are present: Fever (100.4°F or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain from unknown cause, new congestion/runny nose, new loss of sense of taste or smell, nausea, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches.

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

<p>Status</p>	<p>A. COVID-19 diagnostic test Positive (confirmed case) OR COVID-like symptoms without COVID-19 testing and exposed to confirmed case (probable case)</p>	<p>B. Symptomatic individual with a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test</p> <p><i>Negative COVID-19 diagnostic tests are valid only for the date on which they are collected; specimens collected 48 hours prior to symptom onset, after symptom onset, or while symptoms are present are acceptable for determining school exclusion status.</i></p>	<p>C. Symptomatic individual with an alternative diagnosis without negative COVID-19 diagnostic test</p>	<p>D. Symptomatic individual without diagnostic testing or clinical evaluation</p> <p><i>Individuals may move to Columns A, B, or C based on results of diagnostic testing and/or clinical evaluation.</i></p>	<p>E. Asymptomatic individual who is a close contact⁶ to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case</p>
<p>Evaluated by Healthcare Provider</p>	<p>YES / NO</p>	<p>YES / NO</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Return to School Guidance</p>	<p>Stay home at least ten³ calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement of symptoms.</p>	<p>Stay home until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition⁴. Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools.</p>	<p>Stay home until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition⁴. Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools.</p>	<p>Stay home at least ten³ calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement of symptoms.</p>	<p>Stay home for 14 calendar days after last exposure to the COVID-19 case. <i>If COVID-19 illness develops, use the ten-day isolation period³ guidance for a COVID-19 case from the onset date. Testing is recommended.</i></p>
<p>Quarantine for Close Contacts?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Household Member (e.g., Siblings, Parent)⁵</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Documentation Required to Return to School</p>	<p>Release from Isolation letter (if received from their LHD) provided by the parent/guardian or staff person, notification via phone, secure email or fax from the LHD to the school, OR other process implemented by your LHD</p>	<p>If staff/student is a close contact to a confirmed case, the school is experiencing an outbreak, or the LHD is requiring validation due to community transmission levels, documentation of a negative RT-PCR COVID-19 test result is needed. In other situations, a negative RT-PCR, rapid molecular (rapid PCR) or negative antigen test is acceptable.</p>	<p>If testing is not performed due to the clinical judgment of the healthcare provider, a medical note is needed to return to school/day care documenting that there is no clinical suspicion for COVID-19. Infection and indicate an alternative diagnosis with exclusion consistent with this diagnosis</p>	<p>After the ten-day exclusion, a document from parent/guardian student and/or household contacts are afebrile without fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved</p>	<p>Release from Quarantine letter (if received from their LHD) provided by the parent/guardian or staff member, LHD notification via phone, secure email or fax to the school OR other process implemented by your LHD</p>

1 Based on available data and science, schools must make local decisions informed by local context in consultation with their local public health department. This chart should be used in conjunction with the [Public Health Interim Guidance for Pre-K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs for Addressing COVID-19](#).

2 New onset of a symptom not attributed to allergies or a pre-existing condition.

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

4 If the 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.

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

6 Contacts to close contacts of a case do not need to be excluded unless the close contact becomes a confirmed or probable case.