STUDENT presents with a possible COVID-19 symptom(s).

Try to isolate student during evaluation and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

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Has student had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case within the last 14 days?

- **YES**
  - Student may return to class per school policy. Parent/guardian should monitor student daily for any worsening or new symptoms.*

- **NO**
  - Administer appropriate intervention for symptoms of condition. Did student’s symptoms improve/return to baseline?

  - **YES**
    - Student may return to class per school policy. Parent/guardian should monitor student daily for any worsening or new symptoms.*

  - **NO OR UNSURE**
    - Exclude student from school per district policy. If symptoms improve with routine treatment of underlying condition, student may return to school per district policy.*

  - Parent/guardian should monitor student daily for any worsening or new symptoms. If symptoms worsen, refer to physician for evaluation.

Are symptoms consistent with a known underlying condition (e.g., asthma, seasonal allergies)?

- **YES** (or cannot determine if exposed to close contact/meets exposure definition).
  - Give student appropriate PPE and isolate until parent/guardian arrives.
  - Administer appropriate intervention for symptoms of condition.
  - Follow local health authority/local health department-recommended protocols regarding report and care of potential COVID-19 cases.
  - Instruct family to quarantine for 14 days any students with unconfirmed COVID-19 who have had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case.
  - Refer student to diagnostic testing** or physician. If confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19, student should isolate at home until:
    - 24 hours fever-free (without medication), and
    - Improvement in symptoms, and
    - 10 days have passed since symptoms began;
  - Cleared of COVID-19 by physician;***
  - The student has a negative PCR test result indicating symptoms were not due to a COVID-19 infection.

- **NO OR UNSURE**
  - For symptoms that require exclusion per district policy, send student home. If symptoms resolve within 24-48 hours, student may return per district policy.

  - If symptoms persist >48 hours, symptoms worsen, or additional symptoms develop, refer to physician for evaluation.

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*Coinfection of COVID-19 and another illness is possible. If symptoms worsen or new symptoms appear, refer student to testing or to physician for evaluation.

**This can be through a PCR or antigen test. For students without access to a physician, suggest testing locations listed on the Texas Department of State Health Services website.

***A doctor’s note or negative test should not be required to return to school. Some tests can yield false negatives if taken too soon, and individuals with confirmed COVID-19 can continue to test positive after the infectious period has passed. Antigen tests currently are not as reliable in determining a true negative.
COVID-19 Symptoms

- Mild illness is common in pediatric cases. Most present with symptoms of upper respiratory infection.
- Significant symptoms, which may affect students’ ability to learn and put them at risk for spreading to others, might be, among others:
  - Fever (in absence of local guidance, defined as 100.4°F per CDC), taking into consideration physical exertion and outside temperature, which may affect temperature reading;
  - New uncontrolled cough that causes shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergies/asthmatic cough, a change in baseline uncharacteristic of underlying illness, especially after treatment is administered);
  - New onset of severe headache, especially with fever;
  - Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain; or
  - Sore throat.
- Other possible COVID-19 symptoms are:
  - New loss of taste or smell,
  - New onset of fatigue,
  - Congestion/runny nose, or
  - New onset of muscle or body aches.

Exposure Definition

A student is considered to have been exposed if he or she:

- Had close contact‡ with a person with confirmed COVID-19 within the last 14 days,
- Traveled to an area with high community transmission of COVID-19 identified by a federal, state, or local health authority (within the last 14 days), or
- Lives in areas of high community transmission as defined by the local health department or authority.

‡ Per CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 confirmed case for at least 15 minutes regardless if either was wearing a face covering.