

Dear Parents:

Please be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that will completely eliminate transmission risks within a school population. The goal is to keep transmission risks as low as possible.

For the safety of your children, other students, staff, and extended family members, we are asking parents to **please conduct a health check every morning on your children at home prior to sending them to school.** If your child exhibits one or more of the following symptoms, please keep him/her at home and contact your healthcare provider: fever over 100 degrees, new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline), diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, or a new onset headache, especially with a fever. Please seek immediate medical care if someone has any of the following emergency warning signs: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face.

Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness and may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19. If ANY of the above symptoms are detected at school, your child will be isolated from the other students, he/she will be provided a face- mask, and we will contact you to pick up your child as soon as possible. We will strictly follow these guidelines, so please provide several current, up-to-date phone numbers to your child's school.

Return-To-School guidelines after any of the above symptoms: If your child has or you think he/she has COVID-19, it is important for them to stay away from other people and contact your Healthcare Provider. If your child has had recent close contact (less than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) with an individual that has tested positive for Covid-19, please keep your child home and call your Healthcare Provider.

Your child may return to school after one of these criteria is met:

- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever reducing medications AND symptoms have improved (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>)

OR

- You may provide a medical statement from your healthcare provider stating that your child may return to school. This statement must have a return-to-school date included in order for your child to return to school.

We must all work together to keep our school, staff, and community safe. I appreciate your cooperation.

Thank you,

Patsy Davis RN
Director of Health Services
Desoto County Schools