

Quitman County School System School Health Procedures for 20-21

These guidelines have been developed with the consideration of the health and well-being of the students, staff members, and families in the Quitman County School System. They are based on information provided by the CDC, state and local Health Department, Georgia Department of Education, American Academy of Pediatrics, Georgia Association of School Nurses, and the National Association of School Nurses.

The school nurse will be the school's main point of contact concerning COVID-19. Periodic health screenings of students and employees may be conducted including random temperature checks.

The Quitman County Health Department will be made aware of any and all COVID-19 positive test results. If your student has come into contact with someone who has a positive test result, you will be notified by the Quitman County Health Department and notified of the next steps to take. If the exposure happens during school/ working hours, then the school will provide a letter to the parent or guardian. DPH will then follow up with the contacts during their quarantine period. If the exposure happens outside of school, DPH will notify the individuals.

When a student, teacher, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and has exposed others at the school, classrooms and office areas may close temporarily as students, teachers, and staff isolate and the area is cleaned. In consultation with the local public health department, the superintendent will decide whether school closure is warranted, including the length of time closure may be necessary.

Any student/employee with temp 100.4 orally/tympanically (with or without symptoms) will be sent home and encouraged to contact physician for further evaluation.

1. If the fever is determined by a physician to be caused by a condition other than COVID-19, (e.g., strep throat, norovirus, etc.) the student/employee may return to school once they are fever free for 24 hours with no medications and a note from the physician stating that the illness was not COVID-19 related.
2. If a student/employee is sent home with fever and/or COVID symptoms and gets tested for COVID, they cannot return until they have the results of the test. If the test is negative, they are permitted to return when MD allows or when they are at least 24 hours without fever (without medication). If the test is positive, they will follow the positive COVID test guidelines for returning. (see below)

Symptoms of COVID-19 vary in severity and can include:

- Fever (measured temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, or you feel feverish)
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Runny nose/congestion
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea, vomiting, or Diarrhea

If a student/employee has two or more symptoms, he/she should be evaluated by the school nurse. (If fever is present, no other symptoms are needed in order to send home)

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When student/staff develop symptoms of COVID-19 during school day:

- The teacher will notify the school nurse that he/she has a student with COVID-19 symptoms.
- The student will then be sent to the designated COVID area (NOT THE CLINIC) for assessment.
- The student/employee will be a surgical mask upon entering the designated area.
- Nurse will don appropriate PPE before assessing student/employee
- Nurse will then assess the student/employee to determine the appropriate next steps.

Symptomatic persons with confirmed COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 can return to school after:

At least 24 hours have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND** improvement in other symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **AND**, At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Siblings and household members must also stay home for 14 days

Asymptomatic persons with confirmed COVID-19 can return to school after:

- At least 10 days have passed since the positive laboratory test and the person remains asymptomatic.
- Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days
- *Note, asymptomatic persons who test positive and later develop symptoms should follow the guidance for symptomatic persons above*

Asymptomatic persons who have a known exposure to a person with COVID-19 without appropriate PPE can return to school after:

- After they have completed all requirements in the DPH guidance for persons exposed to COVID-19 found at <https://dph.georgia.gov/contact>
- Of note, if this person is tested for COVID-19 during the 14 day quarantine period, a negative test result would not change or decrease the time a person is monitored, but a positive test would move the person into one of the above categories, based on whether they are still asymptomatic or have developed symptoms.

*These guidelines are subject to change to enhance safety and security for students/staff.