

## Symptom-Based Exclusion Guidelines

Students and staff **must** be excluded from the school setting if they are in the communicable stages of a school-restrictable disease. Symptoms which commonly indicate a communicable disease are listed below.

Students and staff **should** be excluded from the school setting if they exhibit:

**\*PRIMARY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19:** fever, cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath and loss of taste or smell.

- **If 2+ primary symptoms, MAY RETURN AFTER**

- o Following applicable symptom-based guidance, **if COVID-19 test is negative**

- o Following applicable symptom-based guidance AND minimum 5-day isolation, **if COVID-19 test is positive OR if not tested**

1. **\*FEVER:** a measured temperature equal to or greater than 100.4°F orally.

- **MAY RETURN AFTER** fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medicine.

2. **\*COUGH:** persistent cough that is not yet diagnosed and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider **OR** any acute (non-chronic) cough illness that is frequent or severe enough to interfere with participation in usual school activities.

- **MAY RETURN AFTER** symptoms improving for 24 hours (no cough or cough well-controlled.)

3. **\*DIFFICULTY BREATHING OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH** not explained by situation such as exercise: feeling unable to catch their breath, gasping for air, breathing too fast or too shallowly, breathing with extra effort such as using muscles of the stomach, chest, or neck.

- **MAY RETURN AFTER** symptoms improving for 24 hours.

- This symptom is likely to require immediate medical attention.

4. **\*NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL**

- **MAY RETURN** per guidance for 2+ primary COVID-19 symptoms.

5. **HEADACHE WITH STIFF NECK AND FEVER.**

- **MAY RETURN AFTER** fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine **AND** symptoms resolve.

- This combination of symptoms may indicate a serious condition. Advise student's guardian to seek medical attention.

6. **DIARRHEA:** three or more watery or loose stools in 24 hours **OR** sudden onset of loose stools **OR** student unable to control bowel function when previously able.

- **MAY RETURN AFTER** 48 hours after diarrhea resolves **OR** after seen and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider or LPHA for specific diarrheal diagnoses.



7. **VOMITING:** at least 1 episode that is unexplained.

- **MAY RETURN AFTER** 48 hours after last episode of vomiting **OR** after seen and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider.

8. **SKIN RASH OR SORES:** new rash not previously diagnosed by a health care provider **OR** rash increasing in size **OR** new unexplained sores or wounds **OR** draining rash, sores, or wounds which cannot be completely covered with a bandage and clothing.

- **MAY RETURN AFTER** rash is resolved **OR** until draining rash, sores or wounds are dry or can be completely covered **OR** after seen and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider.

9. **EYE REDNESS AND DRAINAGE:** unexplained redness of one or both eyes **AND** colored drainage from the eyes **OR** eye irritation accompanied by vision changes **OR** symptoms such as eye irritation, pain, redness, swelling or excessive tear production that prevent active participation in usual school activities.

- **MAY RETURN AFTER** symptoms resolve **OR** after seen and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider.
- Eye redness alone, without colored drainage, may be considered for attendance per CDC guidelines and school nurse assessment.

10. **JAUNDICE:** yellowing of the eyes or skin that is new or uncharacteristic.

- **MAY RETURN AFTER** seen and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider.

11. **BEHAVIOR CHANGE:** may include uncharacteristic lethargy, decreased alertness, confusion, or a behavior change that prevents active participation in usual school activities.

- **MAY RETURN AFTER** symptoms resolve; return to normal behavior **OR** after seen and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider.
- These symptoms may indicate a serious condition. Advise student's guardian to seek medical attention.

12. **MAJOR HEALTH EVENT or STUDENT REQUIRING MORE CARE THAN SCHOOL STAFF CAN SAFELY PROVIDE.** May include an illness lasting more than two weeks, emergency room treatment or hospital stay, a surgical procedure with potential to affect active participation in school activities, loss of a caregiver or family member, or a new or changed health condition for which school staff is not adequately informed, trained, or licensed to provide care.

- **MAY RETURN AFTER** health and safety are addressed.
- Written instructions from a licensed healthcare provider are likely to be required.
- Schools must comply with state and federal regulations such as the Americans with Disabilities Act ensuring free and appropriate public education (FAPE). School staff should follow appropriate process to address reasonable accommodations and school health service provision in accordance with applicable laws.

End of symptom-based exclusion guidelines.

