



# Chester County Health Department

## Coronavirus COVID-19

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School Guidance

Issued: June 19, 2020

Updated: July 3, 2020; July 6, 2020; July 22, 2020, July 31, 2020

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### Summary

This document provides public health guidance for re-opening of pre-K to 12 schools during Governor Wolf’s phased reopening of Pennsylvania in response to COVID-19. The guidance as provided by the Chester County Health Department is consistent with guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Pennsylvania’s Secretary of Health’s Universal Face Covering Order to ensure the schools returning to in-person learning can do so in the safest manner possible. The Health Department recognizes there is a conflict between academic and social/emotional learning in schools and strict adherence to current physical distancing guidelines. Therefore, alternative guidance is provided to “preferred” guidance where applicable.

The guidance provided by the Health Department is intended to be an input to school Health and Safety Plans for reopening, and is subject to change as more is understood about COVID-19 and as community transmission and other surveillance metrics are monitored.

The success of this guidance is dependent upon multiple prevention, containment and mitigation strategies that must be implemented in combination. No one strategy is effective by itself.

### Health and Safety Considerations

The following health and safety considerations are directly from the [Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools](#) published by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. For each consideration, specific public health guidance is provided.

#### PDE Considerations and Public Health Guidance

##### Pandemic Team

Identification of a “pandemic coordinator” and/or “pandemic team” with defined roles and responsibilities for health and safety preparedness and response planning

- Chester County Health Department will serve as a resource/consultant to schools’ pandemic team  
 Jeanne Casner, MPH, PMP  
 County Public Health Director



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### Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

Procedures for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating learning spaces and any other areas used by students (i.e. restrooms, hallways, and transportation)

- Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting and ventilating guidelines apply to areas used by anyone on school property, not just students.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school at least daily, including desktops, chairs, electronic devices door handles, sink handles, etc.
- Disinfect school buses with particular focus on frequently touched surfaces such as handrails, tops of seats, etc. after each run; clean and disinfect entire bus daily.
- Clean shared equipment including but not limited to technology, gym equipment, etc. after each use.
- Use disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting and dispose immediately.
- Use disinfectants registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as effective against Sars-CoV-2 which are labeled as safe for humans and the environment (e.g. "Safer for the Environment" or "Designed for the Environment.").
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows in places that do not conflict with the school's existing safety measures and do not pose a health and safety risk to staff and students.
- Make hand sanitizer available in common areas, hallways, and classrooms where sinks for handwashing are not available.
- Provide continuous reminders/education about hand washing/sanitation.
- Staff and students wash hands before and after lunch/snacks.
- Discontinue the use of drinking fountains and provide safe alternatives for providing water when possible; alternatives include use of disposal drinking cups, personal water bottles from home, touchless fountains, etc.
- When someone in the school develops COVID-19 symptoms, or tests positive for COVID-19:
  - The building does not need to be evacuated.
  - Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.
  - Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If not feasible, wait as long as possible. If seven days have passed since the individual was in the affected area, cleaning is not needed.
- See [CDC's guidance for cleaning and disinfecting](#) for additional information.



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### Social Distancing & Other Safety Protocols

Classroom/ learning space occupancy that allows for 6 feet of separation among students and staff throughout the day, to the maximum extent feasible

- If in-person learning is planned, schools must maintain 6 feet of physical distance between students, staff and faculty in classrooms and learning spaces.
  - If 6 feet physical distance cannot be maintained due to space limitations, schools should consider alternative options for providing education such as virtual, hybrids, etc.
  - If evidence exists that indicates improvements in COVID-19 cases, transmission, deaths, hospitalizations, etc., schools may consult with the Chester County Health Department about transitioning to in-person with less than 6 feet of physical distance (3 feet as a minimum).
- Maximize use of non-classroom space to increase physical distancing.
- Cohort classes to minimize crossover among students and staff within the school; keep students in classrooms and rotate staff instead.
- Arrange desks to face in the same direction or have students sit on only one side of tables to limit face-to-face seating.
- Limit activities in classrooms and other spaces that do not support physical distancing.
- Enforce physical distancing in offices and staff lounges, and during staff meetings.
- Limit large gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities to those that can maintain physical distancing.
- Implement strategies to reduce the number of individuals in the hallways at one time such as:
  - Use one-way traffic patterns to include physical guides such as tape, for routes.
  - Stagger end of class periods to reduce the number of students in the hallways at one time.
- Require face coverings when using non-learning areas such as hallways, restrooms, etc.
- Monitor school to ensure staff or students do not commune; close communal areas if needed.

Restrict the use of cafeterias and other congregate settings, and serving meals in alternate settings such as classrooms

- Schools can utilize cafeterias if students can sit in a staggered arrangement to avoid “across-the-table” seating, with 6 feet physical distance between students.
  - If 6 feet physical distance cannot be maintained due to space limitations schools should use classrooms for lunch.
  - If evidence exists that indicates improvements in COVID-19 cases, transmission, deaths, hospitalizations, etc., schools may consult with the Chester County Health Department about transitioning to in-person with less than 6 feet of physical distance (3 feet as a minimum).
- Use individually plated meals/box lunches and avoid buffet style or self-serve meals.
- Staff avoid face-to-face seating while eating.
- Staff and students avoid sharing of food and utensils.
- Compliance with Chester County Rules and Regulations, Chapter 300, is required as well as additional COVID-19 guidelines provided by Chester County Health Department.



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Hygiene practices for students and staff including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices

- Teach and reinforce frequent washing hands/hand sanitation, covering coughs and sneezes among students, staff, faculty, volunteers and visitors.
- Staff, faculty and students wash hands before and after lunch/snacks, and after use of restroom.
- Hygiene reminders are posted throughout the facility, to include restrooms, staff lounges, etc.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available in all common areas, hallways, and/or in classrooms where sinks for handwashing are not available.
- Prohibit physical contact such as handshakes, fist-bumps, high-fives, etc.

Posting signs, in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs

- Visual/written information about everyday protective measures such as by proper washing hands, proper face covering and physical distancing is available throughout the school (signage, announcements, etc.) is posted throughout facilities and buses, and made available to parents/guardians (websites, emails, etc.).
- Verbal reminders via teachers and/or announcements are made daily.

Identifying and restricting non-essential visitors and volunteers

- Restrict non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities that involve outside groups.
- If non-essential visitors and volunteers cannot be restricted, school must:
  - conduct on-site screening for symptoms and temperature prior to entry.
  - require face covering while on school property.
  - track visitors and volunteers for contact tracing purposes.

Handling sporting activities for recess and physical education classes consistent with the CDC Considerations for Youth Sports

- Stagger use of playgrounds to create smaller groups of students.
- Clean high touch services on playground equipment and play resources (jump ropes, balls, etc.) after each use (minimum daily).
- For additional sports and athletic guidance see: [Chester County Health Department guidance for sports related activities.](#)

Limiting the sharing of materials among students

- Keep each student's belongings separated from others and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, lockers or other areas.



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### Adjusting transportation schedules and practices to create social distance between students

- Promote physical distancing at bus stops.
- Encourage families to drive students to school.
- Load the bus by filling seats back to front.
- Seat a maximum of two students per seat; students from the same family should sit together.
- Use assigned seats (knowing who is seated near an individual will support contact tracing).
- Use markings that shows students where to sit in each row – inside and outside seats of each bench.
- Bus drivers must wear face covering whenever others are on the bus; or barrier between the driver and students must be present.
- Required all riders to face forward throughout the route.
- Reserve the first row for students who board the bus and look visibly ill, or for students who exhibit/express illness while in route.
- Ensure bus driver, or other staff, wear gloves or use hand sanitizer if assisting students on and off the bus.
- Provide access to hand sanitizer on buses and encourage use upon entry.
- Follow same guidance for face covering while on school property.

### Limiting the number of individuals in classrooms and other learning spaces, and interactions between groups of students

- See "Classroom/learning space occupancy..." above.

### Coordinating with local childcare regarding on site care, transportation protocol changes and, when possible, revised hours of operation or modified school-year calendars

- Require on-site before and after care providers to follow requirements of the school's COVID-19 health and safety plan.

### Other social distancing and safety practices

- Refrain from scheduling large group activities such as field trips, inter-group events, and extracurricular activities.
- Limit movement in and out of classrooms with high-risk students.



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### Monitoring Student and Staff Health

Monitoring students and staff for symptoms and history of exposure

- Provide ongoing education and communications to students, staff and parents/guardians about the importance of staying at home if they are ill.
- On-site screening of staff, faculty and students is preferred by the Chester County Health Department – see [Health Screening](#).
- If on-site screening cannot be implemented, staff, faculty and students must be screened at home. Direct guidance (written, video, electronic, etc.) must be provided to staff and parents/guardians to include:
  - All current, relevant symptoms – see [Health Screening](#).
  - Temperatures must be based upon type of thermometer – see [Health Screening](#).
- On-site screening for symptoms and temperature is required for all non-essential visitors and volunteers – see [Health Screening](#).
- No students with symptoms or elevated temperature are allowed on a bus, or at school.
- No staff or faculty with symptoms or elevated temperature are allowed at school.
- Staff, faculty and students must notify the school if an absence is due to COVID-19.
- Monitor symptoms of students, staff and visitors throughout the day; proactively monitor classrooms, cafeterias, hallways, common areas, etc. for symptoms and compliance with other prevention measures.
- Provide reminders to students about COVID-19 symptoms and importance of immediately going to the nurse if feeling ill; daily reminders to staff and faculty about COVID-19 symptoms and importance of immediately going home if feeling ill.
- Empower and support teachers in dismissing students to the school nurse/office if symptoms arise or are suspected.
- Send regular reminder messages to staff and parents/guardians about daily health monitoring.
- Students boarding buses with visible symptoms who cannot be immediately sent home (e.g. no parent present) must sit in the first row and must immediately report to the school nurse/office upon arrival at the school.
- Establish a process for staff, parents/guardians and volunteers to self-report COVID-19 symptoms or exposure to the school nurse, or designee.
- Any individual on school property who develops COVID-19 symptoms, tests positive for COVID-19, or may be a probable COVID-19 must be directed immediately to the isolation room/area of the school until dismissal from school is possible. School must following guidance in Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation section.



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Isolating or quarantining students, staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure

- Designate an isolation room/area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19-like symptoms until the individual is able to go home, or to a healthcare provider; the isolation room/area should not be the existing nurse's office.
- If a separate isolation room is not attainable, the nurse's office can be used if space permits barriers to be installed to avoid comingling of students with and without COVID-19 symptoms.
- Immediately separate individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, or report of COVID-19 test into the designated isolation area.
  - Face covering is required for individuals sent to the isolation area.
  - Staff assisting individuals in the isolation area must wear mask, eye protection, gloves, and gown; ensure proper use and disposal of personal protective equipment.
- Immediately [report probable or confirmed COVID individuals the Chester County Health Department](#).
- Immediately close off the area(s) used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection – see [Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation](#).
- Individuals who are sick or have an elevated temperature must go home, or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are; prior to leaving the school, provide guidance for self-isolation at home and returning to school – see [Home Guidance](#) and [Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements](#).
- If an individual requires transportation by an ambulance, alert the ambulance and hospital that the person may have COVID-19.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect isolation room after each use.
- Train staff on the symptoms and procedure for sending individuals with symptoms to the school nurse or designee; ensure parents/guardians are aware of the classroom protocol.
- Educate and encourage parents to be prepared in the event their student has to stay home per the exclusion requirements.
  - Schools should consider remote learning for students excluded from school who are well enough to continue learning.
- Maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill: gowns, N95 masks, eye protection, gloves.

Returning isolated or quarantined staff, students, or visitors to school

- Each individual who is isolated or quarantined will be provided the appropriate information and timeline for isolation/quarantine by the Chester County Health Department following the [Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements](#).
- Individuals returning to school after isolation or quarantine should notify the school prior to return.

Notifying staff, families, and the public of school closures and within-school-year changes in safety protocols

- Consult with the Chester County Health Department prior to school closures and within-school-year changes in safety protocols.

Other monitoring and screening practices

- Partner with the Chester County Health Department to support [contact tracing](#).



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### Unique safety protocols for students with complex needs or other vulnerable individuals

- Update care plans and/or IEPs to include unique mitigation strategies for individual students.
- Ensure families who choose not send their children to school receive remote learning opportunities aligning with IEP guidelines.
- Leverage classroom supports (e.g. teacher aides) for students who need special assistance with hygiene measures.
- Enforce face coverings, gloves, gowns for adults working with students with complex need, or vulnerable students, particularly when working one-on-one with students.
- Face shields are better for staff and students with hearing impairment.
- Increase frequency of cleaning high touch surfaces in spaces used by students with complex needs or other vulnerabilities.
- Increase frequency of hand washing for students with complex needs or other vulnerabilities, and staff that interact with them.
- Temperature and daily health checks of staff and students in special needs classrooms.

### Organized sports

- The decision to resume sports-related activities, including conditioning, practices and games, is the discretion of a school entity's governing body. Each school entity must develop and adopt an Athletics Health and Safety Plan per [Pennsylvania Guidance](#).
- Follow [Chester County Health Department guidance for sports related activities](#).



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### Other Considerations

#### Protecting students and staff at higher risk for severe illness

- Conduct temperature checks at school for high-risk students and staff, as well as the staff responsible for working with high-risk students; consult with the school nurse regarding high-risk students; high-risk students and staff include those who have high-risk household members.
- Enforce face coverings for adults working in classrooms with high-risk individuals.
- Staff with higher risks should avoid gathering in groups of any size and avoid common areas such as staff lounges, and ensure diligence with face coverings.
- Limit movement in and out of classrooms with high-risk students.
- Encourage students to be up to date on all recommended immunizations in accordance with School Immunization Requirements, 24 P.S. § 13-1303a.

#### Use of face coverings (masks or face shields) by all staff

- Universal face coverings are required for all students while on school property, or when using school vehicles per PA Secretary of Health's [Universal Face Covering Order](#), and subsequent [FAQs](#).
  - It is recognized that some individuals may be unable to wear masks due to personal ability, age, health conditions, etc.; exceptions are specified in Section 3 of the Order.
- If an adult is in a work-space/vehicle alone, removing the face cover is acceptable.
- If an adult is in a shared work-space, removing the face cover is acceptable when 6 feet distance can be maintained, or physical barriers are in place.
- All bus drivers must wear face coverings while on the bus or in the presence of students and staff.
- Share face covering guidance with staff, faculty, volunteers, and visitors – see [Mask Guidance](#).
  - Fabric masks should be washed regularly.
  - Non-fabric masks should be changed regularly, and when soiled.
- Provide face covering breaks throughout the day while maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet during such breaks.

#### Use of face coverings (masks or face shields) by older students (as appropriate)

- Universal face coverings are required for all students while on school property, or when using school vehicles per PA Secretary of Health's [Universal Face Covering Order](#), and subsequent [FAQs](#).
  - It is recognized that some individuals may be unable to wear masks due to personal ability, age, health conditions, etc.; exceptions are specified in Section 3 of the Order.
  - The Health Department supports schools' need to prioritize younger students (per the Order), such as pre-K through 5 grade.
- Share face covering guidance with students and families – see [Mask Guidance](#).
  - Fabric masks should be washed regularly.
  - Non-fabric masks should be changed regularly, and when soiled.
- Provide face covering breaks throughout the day while maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet during such breaks.



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### Health Screening

A health screening serves as a means for assessing and monitoring the health of individuals within schools to include:

- Presence of a fever/elevated temperature
- Presence of other COVID-19 symptoms
- Recent COVID-19 test
- Recent travel history.

See [Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements](#) for more information.

### Reporting COVID-19

Coronavirus must be reported to the Chester County Health Department to ensure an investigation and contact tracing can be conducted.

Schools must anticipate reports of COVID-19 will be received directly from parents/caretaker, students, staff, or rumors. All reports must be taken seriously and require the following actions:

- If the individual(s) involved was not on school property, the school must contact the individual and instruct him/her to remain off school property until the return to school requirements are met, or are provided return to school guidance from the Chester County Health Department (for those reporting positive test result, or are a close contact).
- If the individual(s) involved are on school property, they must be sent to the isolation room/area of the school – see [Monitoring Student and Staff Health](#) and [Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation](#).
- The school nurse or designee must submit COVID-19 reports to the Chester County Health – see [When to Report and How to Report](#).
- The district/school should consider sharing a standard communication to the community at the time of the FIRST confirmed positives test result – sample community communication will be provided. It is not advised that schools communicate about every COVID-19 report or subsequent positive test result. The Chester County Health Department will collaborate with schools for public communications to ensure accuracy and consistency.
- The district/school should consider setting communication expectations with families and staff in advance of the start of the school year.



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### When to Report

Immediately report all **probable** and **confirmed** reports of COVID-19 in **students, staff, faculty, volunteers or visitors** to the Chester County Health Department while maintaining confidentiality.

- A **probable** report could include an illness report from a parent or caretaker, student, or teacher with an epidemiological linkage to COVID-19. Please see *Reporting a Probable Case to the Health Department* (pending).
- A **confirmed** report could include a report from a healthcare provider's office or doctor's note.

### How to Report

The Chester County Health Department requests that school nurses be the primary point of contact for reporting probable or confirmed reports of COVID-19.

School nurses or designee when a nurse is unavailable must complete a [COVID-19 Disease Report Form](#) and click *Submit*. The disease report form may also be printed and faxed to 610-344-5405. If necessary, the disease report may be done via telephone by calling 610-344-6452 during 8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday. Questions about submitting the report form should be emailed to [disschools@chesco.org](mailto:disschools@chesco.org).

### Investigation of COVID-19 Reports

The Chester County Health Department investigates all probable and confirmed reports of COVID-19. The results of the investigation aid the Chester County Health Department in providing guidance to the individual(s) involved and to the school. A team at the Health Department has been designated to support schools investigations.

Investigations are initiated within 24 hours of receipt on weekdays. The time necessary to complete an investigation varies based upon the uniqueness of the case.

If the investigation involves a confirmed positive test result, the Chester County Health Department will provide the individual the following information verbally and in writing:

- Notification of isolation timeline
- Expectations for isolation
- How to report new or worsening symptoms
- Information about COVID-19.

If the investigation does not involve a confirmed positive test result, the Chester County Health Department will provide the individual the appropriate guidance.



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At the completion of any investigation, the Chester County Health Department will notify schools if any staff, faculty or student tests positive, are exposed, or become ill and have to self-isolate; provide guidance for communication to those impacted; and address outstanding questions from the school. School districts, or individual schools will provide the Chester County Health Department with a list of contacts, including the school nurse, with contact information for such notifications.

The Chester County Health Department will not notify the general community if staff, faculty or students test positive, are exposed, or become ill and have to self-isolate.

The timelines of investigations positively enhanced through a partnering between the Chester County Health Department and schools. To the extent possible, the Health Department is asking schools to provide as much information as possible regarding probable

### **Contact Tracing for COVID-19**

COVID-19 investigations include the identification of close contacts during the contagious period. Contact tracing helps manage COVID-19 from spreading in schools and is used to break chains of transmission and to help prevent future surges of cases. Close contacts are those who are within 6 feet distance for  $\geq 15$  minutes with the COVID-19 patient.

Close contacts of probable and confirmed cases will be contacted by the Chester County Health Department (not the school) to identify those at risk of exposure and provide the following information both verbally and in writing:

- The individual's last date of exposure and timeline for quarantine
- Expectations for quarantine
- How to report new or worsening symptoms
- Information about COVID-19

The success of contact tracing is dependent upon schools partnering with the Chester County Health Department on contact tracing and other mitigation actions, such as:

- Reviewing attendance records
- Identifying potential contacts
- Providing the Health Department with contact lists and contact information.



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### **COVID-19 Surveillance in Schools**

The Chester County Health Department uses information from COVID-19 case investigations and contact tracing as input to surveillance monitoring on school campuses. Surveillance data is important to understand where cases are coming from, how close contacts are related to cases, and assess the spread/transmission of the virus. Surveillance data is also an important input to determining further actions that can be taken in response to COVID-19 to include considerations for closing schools, as well as other congregate public settings such as daycares, worksites, etc.

When assessing the need for closing a school, the Health Department will take into account multiple factors including but not limited to the number of new cases among staff and students, how those cases relate to each other, whether or not those cases relate to other known cases outside of the school setting.

The Health Department will utilize the following to identify a COVID-19 outbreak within a school setting:

Identification two (2) cases in the school population within a 14 day period AND are who are not related to a known case or close contact of a known case (if a known close contact of a case becomes positive, this individual is not considered the second case).

When an outbreak is identified, the Chester County Health Department will work with the school to review prevention measures to ensure adherence, and monitor for additional cases. If additional cases are identified within the 14 day period, additional mitigations measures will be implemented including classroom(s)/wings/buildings closures, cohorting, etc.



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**Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements**

Please note that individuals cannot “test” out of quarantine.

Exclude Under These Scenarios	Return to School Under These Conditions
<p><b>Current COVID-19 Symptoms<sup>1</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One</b> of the following symptoms: fever/elevated temperature<sup>2</sup>, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing</li> </ul> <p align="center"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Two</b> of the following symptoms: lack of smell or test (without congestion), sore throat, chills, muscle pain, fatigue, headache, congestion/runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea</li> </ul>	<p>Individual should be tested for COVID-19; individuals awaiting test results should be excluded from school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If test result is negative, return to school following readmission criteria illustrated in PA Code, § 27.73. <i>Readmission of excluded children, and staff having contact with children.</i> If no alternative diagnosis is known, return to school 24 hours after symptoms are improved.</li> <li>➤ If test result is positive, follow return to school guidance for Positive COVID-19 PCR Test with symptoms.</li> </ul> <p>If individual is not tested, exclude for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 24 hours with no fever without using fever-reducing medicines <b>and</b></li> <li>➤ improvement in symptoms <b>and</b></li> <li>➤ 10 days since symptoms first appeared</li> </ul> <p>If individual is using medication to treat or suppress a fever, he/she should be excluded until medication is no longer needed.</p>



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Exclude Under These Scenarios	Return to School Under These Conditions	
<p><b>Positive COVID-19 PCR Test</b></p>	<p><b><u>With Symptoms</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 24 hours with no fever without using fever-reducing medicines <b>and</b></li> <li>➤ improvement in symptoms <b>and</b></li> <li>➤ 10 days since symptoms first appeared</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Without Symptoms</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 10 days after the PCR test was collected</li> </ul> <p>If symptoms develop during 10 days, follow return to school guidance for Positive COVID-19 PCR Test with symptoms.</p>
<p><b>Close Contact of COVID-19 Positive Individual</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals within 6 feet distance for ≥15 minutes with the COVID-19 positive individual</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household members of COVID-19 positive individual</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>With Symptoms</u></b></p> <p>Individual should be tested for COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If test result is negative, return to school 14 days after last exposure to the person with COVID-19 and symptoms have resolved.</li> <li>➤ If test result is positive, follow return to school guidance for Positive COVID-19 PCR Test with symptoms.</li> </ul> <p>Individuals awaiting test results should be excluded from school until results are received.</p> <p>If individual is not tested, return to school 14 days after last exposure to the person with COVID-19 and symptoms have resolved.</p>	<p><b><u>Without Symptoms</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 14 days after the date of last exposure to the person with COVID-19</li> </ul> <p>If symptoms develop during 14 days, follow return to school guidance for Close Contact with symptoms.</p>



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**Coronavirus COVID-19**

School Guidance

Issued: June 19, 2020

Updated: July 3, 2020; July 6, 2020; July 22, 2020, July 31, 2020

Exclude Under These Scenarios	Return to School Under These Conditions	
<p><b>Travel History</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel to <a href="#">areas with travel restrictions</a>, as identified by the PA Department of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>With Symptoms</u></b></p> <p>Individual should be tested for COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If test result is negative, return to school 14 days after last exposure to the person with COVID-19 and symptoms have resolved.</li> <li>➤ If test result is positive, follow return to school guidance for Positive COVID-19 PCR Test with symptoms.</li> </ul> <p>Individuals awaiting test results should be excluded from school until results are received.</p> <p>If individual is not tested, return to school 14 days after last exposure to the person with COVID-19 and symptoms have resolved.</p>	<p><b><u>Without Symptoms</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 14 days since return to PA from travel</li> </ul> <p>If symptoms develop during 14 days, follow return to school guidance for Close Contact with Symptoms.</p>



# Chester County Health Department

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<sup>1</sup> For a current list of symptoms see CDC’s website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>. Individuals with a known chronic condition that presents symptoms like those in either Group A or B may be exempt for those symptoms with documentation from a physician.

<sup>2</sup> Fever/elevated temperature is based upon the mode by which the temperature is obtained:

Mode	Temperature for Fever
Walk through scanner	97.5°F or higher
Axillary and temporal	99.5°F or higher
Oral	100.0°F or higher

### Notes:

- The 10 day period focuses on the time during which an individual is contagious (estimated infectious period). This is the focus of individuals with a positive test result.
- The 14 day period (quarantine) focuses on the time between exposure and development of illness (estimated incubation period). This is the focus for close contacts and for travel, because the exposed person could develop the illness at any time during the 14 days. They may be contagious even without symptoms. A negative test during quarantine does NOT end quarantine early.

### COVID-19 Surveillance

The Health Department and Superintendents will collaborate to monitor COVID-19 data such as cases, transmission, deaths, hospitalizations, etc., within the community to assess the appropriateness of adjusting the public health guidance accordingly.

### Contacting the Health Department

The Chester County Health Department has a team of staff who conduct school investigations, support contact tracing, and address questions from schools. Schools can contact the Health Department as follows:

- Telephone: 610-344-6225 (follow prompts during business hours or after hours)
- Email: [disschools@chesco.org](mailto:disschools@chesco.org)