



Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department

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*Proudly serving Burt, Cuming,
Madison and Stanton Counties*

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Schools have been working diligently throughout the summer to develop COVID-19 safety plans to welcome students back in person this Fall. Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD) has worked with schools throughout our district to provide guidance to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Symptom Screening in School for COVID-19

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person. The virus spreads through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. People with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms which may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. The flowchart on the back of this page has the symptom information that will be used at your school to determine if a student has symptoms that *may* be consistent with COVID-19. Please do not send your student to school and keep family at home if there is illness in the home matching the symptom flowchart.

What to Expect if there is a Positive COVID-19 Case in a School Setting

When a positive COVID-19 case is identified, immediate measures will be taken to isolate the sick individual and quarantine his or her direct contacts. During this process, ELVPHD may contact parents/guardians, school staff, coaches, etc. to gather information. It is important to be honest and detailed when sharing information with ELVPHD to help slow the spread of the virus and ensure that schools can continue to operate safely and effectively.

Isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19 from people who are not infected. The duration of isolation is a minimum of 10 days plus 24 hours fever-free.

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. The duration of quarantine is a minimum of 14 days.

Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings are a barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people. Wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) is highly recommended when students are in close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) to reduce the number of individuals who might be exposed to COVID-19. Quarantine guidelines when a positive COVID-19 case is identified:

If everyone wore a mask: quarantine is not automatically recommended

If a mask was not worn by positive COVID-19 individual: all close contacts are required to quarantine

If a mask was worn by positive COVID-19 individual: only close contacts *not* wearing masks are required to quarantine

The information provided above can change as guidelines are updated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS), and other regulatory entities. We will continue to communicate with schools to provide the most updated guidance. If you should have any questions, please contact our office at 402.529.2233.



Public Health Recommendations for the Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance of Ill Students and Staff for COVID-19 in Schools

The following symptom screening criteria for ill students and staff is based on the most current research. Because people with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness, the following criteria has been developed to assist schools in identifying presumptive positive COVID-19 cases. Symptom criteria is based upon Nebraska's Directed Health Measures and CDC guidance.

Any one of the following symptoms:

- * Sudden onset of *new* cough
- * Sudden onset of shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- * New loss of taste or smell

OR

Any two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or reported), chills, shivering, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Students and staff who have the noted symptom(s) should be immediately isolated in the designated area and sent home as soon as possible. Require the symptomatic person to wear a cloth mask while waiting, if tolerable.

Re-Admittance to School

Symptomatic staff/student who tests positive:

Exclude until:
10 days from symptom onset **and** fever free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medication **and** symptoms have improved.

Symptomatic staff/student not tested:

Exclude until:
10 days from symptom onset **and** fever free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medication **and** symptoms have improved.
OR
Individual receives an alternate diagnosis by a health care provider and the school's requirements for readmission are met.

Symptomatic staff/student who tests negative:

May return to school with a negative test result **and** fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication **and** symptoms have improved.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, please call the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department at 402-529-2233.

Fever level relevant for COVID-19 is 100.4 or greater.

Adapted from the Douglas County Health Department