

## Self-Quarantine/School Absence Policy

\*\* subject to change \*\*  
Last Updated 8/6/20

The following guidance is based on guidance provided by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia PolicyLab and the VA Department of Health. This policy is intended to cover students, aides, teachers, TROs and anyone else seeking entrance to BNS.

In consultation with the NRV Health District office, the capacity to test asymptomatic students is not available. Not every child can be tested before returning to school.

We request that when reporting absences, families report according to the classification as defined below (and described in [this infographic](#)):

- o **Symptomatic individual/child who tests positive for COVID19:** exclude for 10 days from symptom onset AND only allow to return 3 days after fever resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms.
  
- o **Symptomatic individual/child not tested:** exclude for 10 days from symptom onset AND only allow to return 3 days after fever resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms; may return to school if a doctor establishes an alternative diagnosis (e.g., urinary tract infection) and presents a doctor's note to confirm the presence of alternate diagnosis that explains symptoms
  
- o **Symptomatic individual/child who tests negative:** exclude until fever-free for 24 hours (if fever present) AND improved respiratory symptoms
  
- o **[Exposed](#) and asymptomatic individual/child:** exclude for 14 days from last exposure if remains asymptomatic; if individual becomes symptomatic, exclude until they meet criteria listed above of a symptomatic individual who tests positive or is not tested

**o Member of the Household who tests positive:** Since children may be asymptomatic or display minor symptoms, it is recommended that individuals in a household with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 does not return to BNS for 14 days from last exposure if they remain asymptomatic.

There is no role for testing to get a “negative test” to clear a child to return to school. A COVID-19 positive individual does not need a repeat COVID-19 test or a doctor’s note in order to return to BNS after proper quarantining has occurred.

If a child or staff member has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, call the local health department for further instructions. Parents are asked to inform the school within 24 hours, if their child or any member of the immediate household has developed any reportable communicable disease (as defined by the State Board of Health; [www.vdh.state.va.us](http://www.vdh.state.va.us); “Reportable Disease List” and including COVID19). BNS will notify the entire school community of a positive COVID-19 test anywhere within the community. Names will never be used, but the community will be notified about the class color of a confirmed case. Other notifications will be made in accordance with the VA Department of Health after their contact tracing (as noted below).

All children and staff in the same classroom or who have come in [close contact](#) (defined as greater than 15 minutes of interaction less than 6 feet away without wearing a mask) with a COVID-19 positive individual should quarantine [Read more about the [difference between isolation and quarantine](#)] at home for 14 days unless given alternate guidance from the health department. Anyone who develops symptoms during that time should contact their health care provider and should follow the guidance above for symptomatic individuals who test positive or who are not tested.

If there is a positive case of COVID-19, the classroom will be deep cleaned.

[Contact tracing](#) will be performed by the Health Department.

It will be the decision of the Health Department to recommend if the school is closed for deep cleaning due to illnesses. The Governor may also decide that schools move into other phases of opening.

**Emergency Plan for Student/Teacher who becomes symptomatic while at school:**

- Move symptomatic individual(s) to the conference room next to the front door or outside area if available.

- Ensure symptomatic individual remains masked (as able if no respiratory difficulties)
- Teacher (or support individual) should wear mask, face shield, gown, and gloves.
- If breathing medication such as albuterol is required, only inhaler with spacer should be utilized. (Nebulizers are considered an aerosol-generating procedure).
- Increase ventilation as able in the conference room by opening windows or other available strategies. (Adjoining doors should be closed).
- Symptomatic individual should leave the school as quickly as possible (e.g. home with parent or emergency services).
- After symptomatic individual leaves, the room should be sterilized with the UV-cleaning light and room should remain unused until complete air turnover occurs (30 minutes).
- Clean surfaces that the symptomatic individual touched in their classroom/throughout the school.
- School COVID contacts, Molly Lucier ([mollycavewmn@gmail.com](mailto:mollycavewmn@gmail.com)) or TJ Stone ([tjstonebns@gmail.com](mailto:tjstonebns@gmail.com)), will email symptomatic individual's classroom of possible exposure to an ill individual.
- Recommendation for all members of the household to leave the school to minimize possible infections.

#### **References**

Rubin D, Matone M, Marshall D, Gerber J, Coffin S. 2020. Policy Review: Evidence and Considerations for School Reopenings. July, 2020.

<https://policylab.chop.edu/reports-and-tools/policy-review-evidence-and-considerations-school-reopenings>