Pocono Mountain School District
COVID-19
Frequently Asked Questions

When should students be kept home from school?

We learn more about COVID-19 every day, and as more information becomes available, CDC will continue to update and share information. As our knowledge and understanding of COVID-19 evolves, this guidance may change. However, based on the best available evidence at this time:

● CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools.
● Parents or caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day using the Home Screening document.
● Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.

Students with chronic conditions like asthma or allergies may have symptoms like cough or nasal congestion without having any infection at all. As a result, symptom screenings have the potential to exclude some students from school repeatedly even though they do not have COVID-19 or any contagious illness. This in turn may worsen disparities in students who already miss school frequently because of chronic medical conditions.

Students who are sick with contagious illnesses should not attend school, but most illnesses do not require the same level or length of isolation that COVID-19 does. Excluding students from school for longer than what is called for in existing school policies (e.g., fever free without medication for 24-hours) based on COVID-19 symptoms alone risks repeated, long-term unnecessary student absence.

If a student has tested positive for Covid-19, must all school age household members quarantine for 14 days?

Yes, siblings of the same household must quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.

If a student gets sick during the school day and has symptoms of Covid-19, do others who were within 6 feet or less of that person need to go home also?

No, the quarantine of any staff or students will not occur until there is a confirmation of a positive result.

If a student is identified as a close contact of a person with COVID-19, how long would he/she need to be out of school?

 If the student has been identified as a close contact to someone with Covid-19, regardless of the child's symptom status, he or she must remain in quarantine for the 14-day incubation period

What is the procedure if a student presents a medical excuse that excuses them from wearing a mask?

 The student will be provided with and required to wear a face shield.

Are face shields permitted in place of masks?

 The Pennsylvania Department of Health announced an order requiring face coverings. The Order requires individuals to wear a "face covering." "Face covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A "face covering" can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen, and, for the purposes of the order, can include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth. This option will only be provided to students who have a doctor's note indicating a face mask cannot be worn due to health issues.

What happens when multiple students present with symptoms?

 Students will be socially distanced at 6 feet apart and wear masks while waiting to be picked up.

How many positive COVID-19 cases in one classroom would require the entire class to quarantine?

 The Department of Health will work with the school district to determine the need for quarantine on a case-by-case basis.

What is the procedure if my child arrives at school with a temperature or reports he/she does not feel well?

 The parent or emergency contact will be called to pick up the student ASAP.

Where can I find current information on how many students or staff members in my child's school may be positive for COVID-19?

 You can find this information on the district's Daily COVID Summary Report which is posted on the district webpage at [COVID 19 Information page.](#)