

Dear Summit Hill School District 161 Families,

Last week, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released additional guidance for 2021-2022 school year. The joint guidance is based on updated CDC guidance for COVID-19 prevention and the State of Illinois Executive Orders.

Exclusion and screening protocols were recently updated to limit the symptoms for which students should be screened for suspected COVID-19 infection. To prevent potentially excluding students repeatedly, the list of symptoms has been limited to those most likely to be part of an infectious syndrome. **Symptoms include fever (100.4 degrees or higher), chills, new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue from unknown cause, and/or muscle or body aches from unknown cause.**

To continue to keep our students, staff, and families healthy, we would like to remind everyone about the information below:

Positive COVID-19 Case:

- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the individual must be excluded from school for 10 days and fever free for 24 hours with improvement in symptoms prior to returning.
- Families and staff will be notified of the positive case as soon as possible, while maintaining confidentiality.
- Close contacts will be identified and excluded.

Students and Staff Exhibiting COVID-19 like Symptoms at School or at Home:

- Individuals will be isolated and sent home or must remain at home.
- Individuals can do one of the following procedures if they are not currently considered a close contact to someone with COVID-19 or a part of an outbreak:
 1. Take a COVID-PCR Test (lab test) within 48 hours and can return within 24 hours fever free, no symptoms if it is a negative test.
 2. Refer to healthcare provider for an alternate diagnosis, take a COVID-Rapid Antigen test, and return to school after negative test, 24 hours fever free with no symptoms.
 3. If testing is not performed at all, the individual must remain at home for 10 calendar days and can return on day 11 if symptoms have improved.

Students and Staff Identified as a Close Contact:

- If the individual is vaccinated, they are not considered a close contact and can remain at school. Testing on Day 3 or 5 after exposure is recommended.
- If the individual is not vaccinated and all individuals were consistently and correctly wearing their masks and were within 3-6 feet, they do not need to quarantine.
- If the close contact is not vaccinated and was not wearing a mask consistently and correctly and were within 3 to 6 feet of the positive individual, they must quarantine for 14 days unless otherwise directed by the Will County Health Department (WCHD).

Shortened Quarantine Options Available for Close Contacts if directed by WCHD:

10 Day Exclusion: If individual is symptom-free for 10 days, they are allowed to return to school on day 11 after the exposure.

7 Day Exclusion: If the individual is symptom-free and completes a COVID PCR-test (lab test) on day 6 or later, they can return on the 8th day after the exposure if the test is negative.

Siblings and Quarantine/Isolation:

If an ill student is tested within 24 hours of first notification of symptoms, siblings do not need to be kept/sent home unless there is a high suspicion the ill sibling has COVID-19 (e.g., they are a known close contact, they have lost sense of taste and smell). Pending test results, siblings can remain in school with consistent use of well-fitting masks both indoors, as required, and outdoors. Siblings who are vaccinated do not need to quarantine

