



Keep Watch

COVID PROCEDURES

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

The COVID Pandemic has moved into the “endemic” phase. But the strategies and protocols for the start of the 2023-2024 school year closely align with those in place at the end of last school year and continue to be based on the recommendations of the local health department.

SO WE CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING.

Underlying Considerations

Schools should put in place a *core set of communicable disease prevention strategies* as part of their normal operations and *add and layer COVID-19-specific prevention strategies* in response to COVID-19 Community Levels and local conditions, i.e., the number of hospitalizations due to local positive cases or an “outbreak” within the school district.

Strategies can be *targeted* to address a district wide situation, one in a particular school or one in a smaller group, for example an athletic team or extracurricular activity.

The implementation of COVID-19 specific prevention strategies will be determined by building level administration and their building safety team, in conjunction with central administration, the lead/assistant lead nurse, and when warranted, the local health department.

Day to Day Operations

Sick = Stay Home

Staff and students should stay home when they are sick!

Absences should be reported in a timely manner.

Those with symptoms of COVID are encouraged to follow CDC recommendations and have a PCR test ASAP.

Vaccination and staying up to date for all vaccinations is highly recommended.

The district will continue to advertise and coordinate facility usage for testing and vaccination opportunities.

Cleaning, Ventilation and Hand Washing

The proper hand washing and “how to cover coughs and sneezes” protocols will be reinforced and indoor ventilation optimized to improve indoor air quality.

Isolation Protocol

Symptomatic staff is reported to the nurse and sent home.

Symptomatic student is reported to the nurse and is supervised until picked up.

If symptoms match COVID-19, the individual is told that the recommendation is to have PCR testing ASAP.

- If test is negative, individual returns to building when symptoms subside.
- If test is positive, individual must remain home in isolation for five days.
 - A letter will be generated by central office in conjunction with the nurses/building principals alerting those *who might have been exposed* to watch for symptoms, that it is recommended that they: get tested if symptomatic or, on or after day five; and that they wear a mask for the next 10 days. They are not excluded from school.

Positive individuals return to school on day six *with mask and other precautions through day 10.*

- A student who is reported as being positive for COVID is marked in Genesis as having to wear a mask/precautions.

Reporting + Cases

Communication Around Positive Cases

When we learn of a positive case in the district:

- The nurse will be notified and the staff member/student will be made to isolate.
- A general exposure notification letter will be sent to the principal to send to *those who may have been exposed to the positive person, i.e. the class; grade level; extracurricular activity.*
- The head nurse/assistant head nurse will report positive cases to the appropriate agencies.

As with any outbreak of communicable diseases, the health protocols of a particular school or the district as a whole may change based upon health department recommendations.

Face Covering

Face Coverings

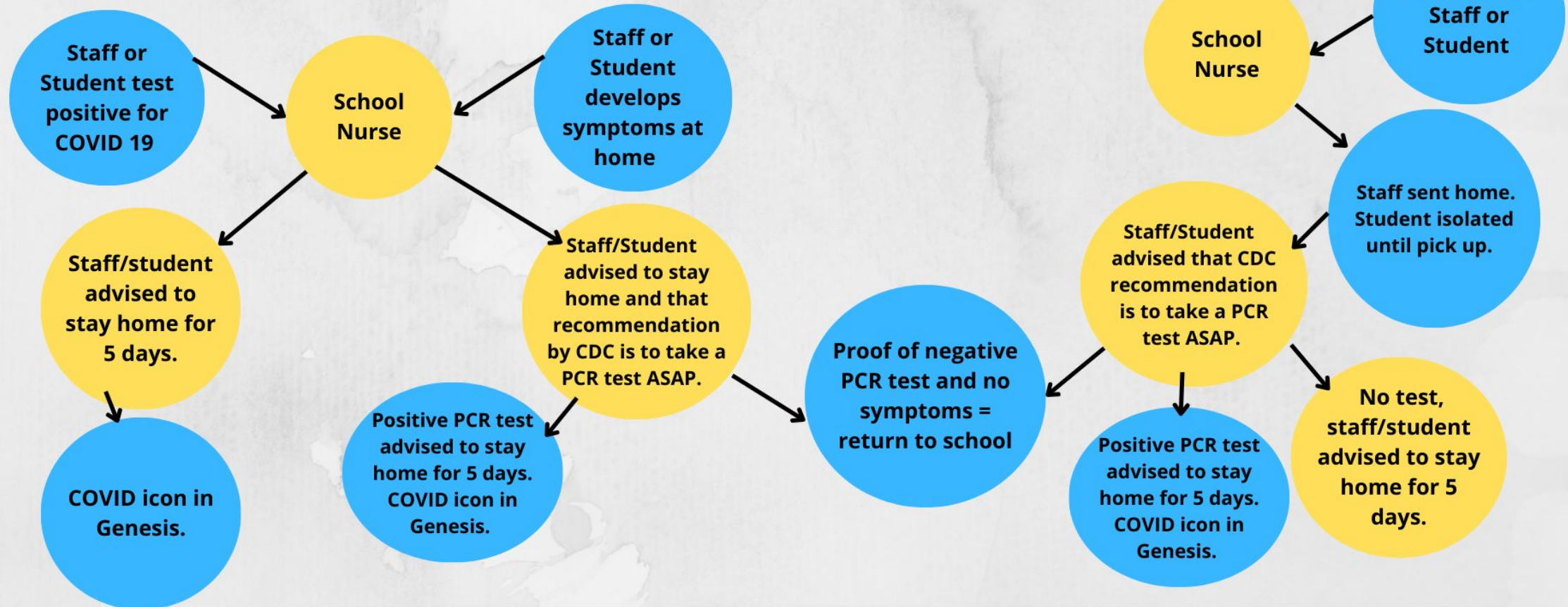
Optional for all but:

- Staff or students returning from *isolation* must wear a well-fitting mask in buildings/on bus through day 10. (Genesis icon).
- Staff/students in the nurse's office must wear a well-fitting mask at the discretion of the nurse.
- Guidance says that staff or students *exposed* to a positive person should wear a face covering in the building/bus. Staff/student families are informed of these recommendations in the general exposure notification letter.
- Anyone who *chooses to wear* a mask should do so freely with no stigma attached.

Isolation Protocol

SYMPTOMS NOTED AT SCHOOL

INFORMATION REPORTED FROM HOME



Those ending isolation return to school and on days 6-10 must wear a well fitting mask and follow other restrictions which flow from the inability to wear a mask.

Please direct any questions to your
child's school nurse or building
principal.