

Parent/Guardian Guidance on COVID-19 Screening and Handling of Cases in Margate Schools

Daily Symptom Screening

On site screening of students upon arrival will include a temperature check and submission of a daily screening tool (see page 2). Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day, as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. Students who are sick should not attend school. **If your child has symptoms that could be potentially COVID-19 related, please call, DoJo, or email the school nurse, Mrs. Diane Grassi (dgrassi@margateschools.org) and let us know he or she will be staying home and why.**

COVID-19 Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in children may be similar to those of common viral respiratory infections or other childhood illnesses. The overlap between COVID-19 symptoms and other common illnesses means that many people with symptoms of COVID-19 may actually be ill with something else. This is even more likely in young children, who typically have multiple viral illnesses each year.

Individuals with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild to severe illness. There is no single symptom that is uniquely predictive of a COVID-19 diagnosis. A COVID19 viral test is needed to confirm if someone has a current infection. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and include the following:

- Fever or chills; • Cough; • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; • Fatigue; • Muscle or body aches; • Headache; • New loss of taste or smell; • Sore throat; • Congestion or runny nose; • Nausea or vomiting; • Diarrhea.

Parents should not send students to school when sick. School staff will isolate students with overt symptoms of any infectious disease that develop during the school day.

When Illness Occurs Within the School Setting

Children and staff with COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated from other members of the school community until they can be sent home.

- Our nurse or designee will ask the ill student's parent about potential exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days:
 - o Close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
 - o Travel to an area with a high level of COVID-19 transmission as per the NJ travel advisory list
- Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider for evaluation on whether testing is needed. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended for persons with COVID-19 symptoms. Results of testing or some form of documentation from a physician as to the reason for symptoms should be shared with the school nurse and administration.

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Daily screening slip for student entry at arrival - more slips will be provided for each student

COVID-19 Daily Screening for Students/Staff	
Name _____	Date _____
Parents/Guardians: Please complete this short check each morning and report your child's information per your school's reporting instructions.	
Section 1: Symptoms	
Any of the symptoms below could indicate a COVID-19 infection in children and may put your child at risk for spreading illness to others. Please note that this list does not include all possible symptoms and children with COVID-19 may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms. Please check your child daily for these symptoms:	
Column A	Column B
<input type="checkbox"/> Fever (measured or subjective)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cough
<input type="checkbox"/> Chills	<input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of Breath
<input type="checkbox"/> Rigors (shivers)	<input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty Breathing
<input type="checkbox"/> Myalgia (muscle aches)	<input type="checkbox"/> New loss of smell
<input type="checkbox"/> Headache	<input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste
<input type="checkbox"/> Sore Throat	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or Vomiting	
<input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Congestion or runny nose	
If TWO OR MORE of the fields in Column A are checked off OR AT LEAST ONE field in column B is checked off, please keep your child home and notify the school for further instructions.	
Section 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure	
Please verify if:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your child has had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Someone in your household is diagnosed with COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your child has traveled to an area of high community transmission .
If ANY of the fields in Section 2 are checked off, your child should remain home for 14 days from the last date of exposure (if child is a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case) or date of return to New Jersey.	
Contact your child's provider or your local health department for further guidance.	

Closure

Local circumstances should be considered when making decisions affecting specific school districts and schools. Many factors would need to be considered when deciding to close schools such as the distribution of cases within the school. **Closure is a local decision (for now) that would be made by school administrators in consultation with local public health officials.** While it is not possible to account for every scenario that schools may encounter over the course of the school year, the following scenarios may help inform the decision for when schools should temporarily close.

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SCENARIO	CLOSURE
1 confirmed case in the school	School remains open; students and staff in close contact with a positive case are excluded from school for 14 days.
2 or more cases in the same classroom (outbreak limited to one cohort)	School remains open; students and staff in close contact with a positive case are excluded from school for 14 days. Recommendations for whether the entire classroom would be considered exposed will be based on public health investigation.
2 or more cases within 14 days, but are linked to a clear alternative exposure that is unrelated to the school setting and unlikely to be a source of exposure for the larger school community (e.g. in same household, exposed at the same event outside of school)	School remains open; students and staff in close contact with positive cases are excluded from school for 14 days.
2 or more cases within 14 days, linked together by some activity in school, but who are in different classrooms (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)	Recommendations for whether school closure is indicated will be based on investigation by the local health department.
A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred (e.g., large event or large local employer) and is impacting multiple staff, students, and families served by the school community	Consider closing school for 14 days, based on an investigation by the local health department.
2 or more cases are identified within 14 days that occur across multiple classrooms and a clear connection between cases or to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 cannot be easily identified (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)	Close school for 14 days.
Very high risk of community transmission (refer to COVID-19 Regional Risk Level Matrix)	Close school until COVID-19 transmission decreases.

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Period of closure: After switching to remote learning due to high levels of viral transmission in the school or local geographic community, districts or schools should wait a minimum of 14 days before bringing any students back for in-person learning.

Guidance taken from the New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools, published on August 13, 2020

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf