

## COVID-19 Unified Command

A PARTNERSHIP

Panhandle

Public Health District

Scotts Bluff County

Health Department



PANHANDLE PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT (308)262-5764 24/7  
SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (308)630-1580  
TO SELF REPORT OR IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL  
BEFORE SEEKING MEDICAL CARE

# Public Health Recommendations for the Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance of Ill Students and Staff for COVID-19 in Schools

The following symptom screening criteria for ill students and staff is based on the most current research. Because people with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness – the following criteria has been developed to assist schools in identifying possible COVID-19 cases.

Students and Staff with two of the following: fever (measured or subjective), chills, cold/shivering, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea  
**OR:**

At least one of the following: new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste and smell  
**OR:**

Has at least one symptom and answers yes to: Is there someone in your household who is currently in quarantine or currently positive for COVID-19?

Students and staff who meet criteria should immediately isolate in the designated area and be sent home as soon as possible. Require the symptomatic person to wear a surgical or procedure mask while waiting, if tolerable.

## Re-Admittance to School

**Symptomatic staff /student  
who tests positive:**

**Exclude for:**

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared
- AND:**
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication
- AND:**
- Symptoms have improved

**Asymptomatic staff /student  
who tests positive:**

Exclude for 10 days from date of test **AND** only allow to return if no symptoms develop. If symptoms develop, refer to symptomatic positive instructions.

**Symptomatic staff /student  
not tested:**

**Exclude for:**

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared
- AND:**
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication
- AND:**
- Symptoms have improved
- OR**
- May return to school if an alternative diagnosis is established with a health care provider's note.

**Symptomatic staff /student  
who tests negative:**

Exclude until fever free for 24 hours (or meets the schools' requirements for readmission) **AND** improved respiratory symptoms

**There is no reason for a student or staff member to get a "negative test" to be cleared for the return to school.** A COVID-19 positive individual does not need a repeat COVID-19 test or a health care provider's note in order to return. Recovery will be determined and communicated to the school by public health.