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Dear Parent,

We are sorry to hear your child is not feeling well and pray for a quick recovery.

In order to keep our community safe, students who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 while at school must be sent home (even if they feel better after taking medicine, such as a cough suppressant or fever reducer). In order for your child to return to school, please refer to the "Returning to School" chart in the Reopening Handbook, 9-10 and follow the steps provided.

If testing or a doctor's note are required for your child's return, please provide documentation to the ICS Administration via Mr. Kurz at [kurzp@icdurham.org](mailto:kurzp@icdurham.org) and Jennifer Miller at [millerj@icdurham.org](mailto:millerj@icdurham.org). Please note that both rapid antigen and PCR tests are accepted when proof of such a test is required for students to return to school. However, only professionally administered tests (at-home test results are not accepted) will be accepted.

Please refer any questions about this process to Mr. Kurz.

We greatly appreciate your compliance during this unprecedented time and hope your child is feeling well soon.

Thank you,

Immaculata  
Administration

Exclusion Category	Scenario	Criteria to return to school
Diagnosis	Person has tested <b>positive</b> with an <b>antigen test</b> but <b>does not have symptoms</b> of COVID-19 and is not known to be a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.	<p>If the person has a repeat PCR/molecular test performed in a laboratory within 24 – 48 hours of their positive antigen test, and that PCR/molecular test is negative: the positive antigen test can be considered a false positive and the person can immediately return to school; OR</p> <p>If the person does not have a repeat PCR/molecular test, or has one within 24 – 48 hours and it is also positive, the StrongSchoolsNC: Public Health Toolkit (K-12) Interim Guidance • Published June 8, 2020; Updated July 29, 2021 17 person can return to school 10 days after the first positive test, as long as they did not develop symptoms.</p> <p>The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.</p>
Diagnosis	Person has tested <b>positive</b> with a <b>PCR/molecular test</b> but the person does <b>not</b> have symptoms.	Person can return to school 10 days after their positive test.
Symptom	Person <b>has symptoms</b> of COVID-19 <u>and</u> has tested <b>positive</b> with an <b>antigen test or PCR/molecular test</b>	<p>Person can return to school when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been 10 days since the first day of symptoms; AND</li> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.</li> </ul> <p>The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.</p>
Symptom	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has <b>not</b> been tested for COVID-19 nor has visited a health care provider. Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive for COVID-19 due to the presence of a clinically compatible illness in the absence of testing.	<p>Person can return to school when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been 10 days since the first day of symptoms; AND</li> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.</li> </ul>
Symptom	<p>Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has received a negative test for COVID-19* or has visited a health care provider and received a <b>an alternate diagnosis</b> that would explain the symptoms of COVID-19</p> <p>*In a person with symptoms, a negative test is defined as either (1) a negative PCR/molecular test or (2) a negative antigen test if the person has a low likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., the person has no known or suspected exposure to a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days or is fully vaccinated or has had a SARS-CoV-2 infection in the last 3 months.) See CDC antigen algorithm for interpretation of antigen tests</p>	<p>Person can return to school when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• They have felt well for at least 24 hours.</li> </ul> <p>Note: The health care provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis.</p>

<p>Exposure</p>	<p>Person who is not fully vaccinated and has been in close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. (Fully vaccinated persons and persons who have tested positive in the last 3 months and do not have any symptoms after a close contact do not need to quarantine.)</p>	<p>Person can return to school after completing up to 14 days of quarantine. The 14 days of quarantine begin after the last known close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual. Alternatively the person may complete a <b>10-day quarantine</b> if the <b>person is not presenting symptoms of COVID-19</b> after daily at-home monitoring, or they may complete <b>7 days of quarantine if they report no symptoms during daily at-home monitoring, and the individual has received results of a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test on a test taken no earlier than day 5 of quarantine.</b></p> <p>Follow the recommendations of your local public health department if someone at your schools should quarantine. Local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last in the communities they serve, based on local conditions and needs.</p> <p><b>If quarantine is discontinued before day 14, the individual should continue to monitor symptoms and strictly adhere to all non-pharmaceutical interventions</b> (e.g. wear a mask, practice social distancing) through 14 days after the date of last exposure.</p> <p>Note: NCDHHS recommends that schools not require an individual who is fully vaccinated (at least 2 weeks after getting their second dose in a 2-dose series or one-dose of a single-dose series) or tested positive for COVID-19 in the past three months to quarantine if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with StrongSchoolsNC: Public Health Toolkit (K-12) Interim Guidance • Published June 8, 2020; Updated July 29, 2021 18 COVID-19, and they do not live in a congregate setting (such as a shelter).</p>
<p>Exposure</p>	<p>K-12 student who is not fully vaccinated but has been in close contact, within 3 to 6 feet, with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, in which both individuals were wearing a mask the entire time</p>	<p><b>NCDHHS does not recommend quarantine of students following exposures in school settings if masks were being worn appropriately and consistently by both the person with COVID-19 and the potential exposed person.</b> This applies to exposures in classrooms, other inschool settings, and school transportation but does not apply to exposures during extracurricular or athletic activities. This option should only be utilized in settings where masks are consistently worn. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.</p>