
Symptom Screening in Schools

This guidance outlines recommendations for how Maricopa County K - 12 schools¹ conduct symptom screening for students, teachers, and staff prior to entering school buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conducting regular screening for COVID-19-related symptoms and requiring ongoing self-monitoring throughout the school day can help reduce exposure to infection. Staff and students should be encouraged to self-monitor for any symptoms of illness. If a student develops symptoms while at school, they must notify an adult immediately.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, schools must consider any symptoms included in the CDC list of [COVID-19 related symptoms](#), no matter how mild, to be related to COVID-19. The exception is symptoms related to a known chronic condition as long as they have not worsened.

SCHOOLS MUST:

- Require that staff and students stay home if:
 - They have tested positive for COVID-19 or are exhibiting COVID-19-related symptoms. Individuals should stay home until they meet the criteria for release from isolation ([Release from Isolation Flowchart](#)) and ([Home Isolation Decision Maker Tool](#))
 - They live in the same home or were in close contact (within 6 feet for longer than 10 minutes) with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 ([Quarantine Guidance for Household and Close Contacts](#))
- Conduct symptom screening of any person entering the building, including students, staff, family members, and other visitors. Screening may be provided prior to arrival at school or at the school entrance.
- Example screening tools:
 - Symptom Screening Checklist: Adult reporting child's symptoms ([Attachment 1](#)).
 - Symptom Screening Checklist: Student, staff, or visitor to self-report symptoms. ([Attachment 2](#)).
 - Screening Flow Chart ([Attachment 3](#)) provides a diagram of steps to take for different screening results.
 - For all tools, please see the [CDC Link for the most up-to-date symptom list](#).

SCHOOLS MAY:

- Conduct daily temperature screenings for all people entering the school facility.
 - **Fever** is determined by a measured temperature of **100.4°F** (38 °) or greater

¹ * Preschools associated with K-12 schools should follow the [guidance for Child Care Centers](#)



- **Individuals waiting to be screened must stand six feet apart** from each other. Use tape or other markers on the floor to indicate appropriate spacing
- **The staff member taking temperatures must wear a cloth face covering**, and must remain six feet apart from the individuals being tested unless taking a temperature
- **Use a touchless thermometer** if one is available
- **If a touchless thermometer is not available**, use a tympanic (ear), digital axillary (under arm), or temporal (forehead). Use disposable thermometer covers that are changed between individuals.
- **Do not take temperatures orally** due to the risk of COVID-19 spread through respiratory droplets from the mouth.
- **Staff personnel must wash hands or use hand sanitizer** before touching the thermometer.
- **Staff personnel must wear gloves** (if available). Gloves must be changed between instances of direct contact with individuals. Staff must also wash their hands or utilize hand sanitizer after removing gloves.
- **Staff personnel must clean and sanitize thermometers** using manufacturer's instruction prior to initial use and between each use.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Can a parent attest that their child is well enough to go to school?
 - Schools may choose to use a parent/guardian attestation of a symptom screening for their child in lieu of in-person screening for students who are boarding school transportation. Those students must be screened upon arrival to the school facility.
- **It is more important to screen for symptoms than to screen for fever.**
 - Fever is not the most common early symptom of COVID-19, especially in children.
 - If screening in hot weather, individuals may have an artificially elevated skin temperature. Those individuals should wait several minutes in a cool environment before re-taking temperature. If the temperature does not decrease within 10 minutes, consider this a fever.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1- Symptom Screening Checklist: Adult reporting for student
- 2- Symptom Screening Checklist: Self report of symptoms
- 3- COVID-19 Screening Flow Chart and Protocol
- 4- Visual Aid for Determination of Symptoms



ATTACHMENT 1: Symptom Screening Checklist: Adult Reporting for Student

The person conducting screenings should maintain a six-foot distance when asking questions. Ask the person dropping off the child the following questions before entering the facility. If no adult is accompanying the child during drop-off, utilize best judgment if the child can respond on their own.

SAMPLE

ANYONE SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 OR WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19 SHOULD NOT BE AT SCHOOL.

1. Since they were last at school, have any of the children you are dropping off been diagnosed with COVID-19?

- YES
 NO

If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test, their symptoms, or is showing symptoms without a COVID-19 test, they should not be at school and should stay home until they meet the criteria below.

2. Have any of the children you are dropping off had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 10 minutes) with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?

- YES → The child should not be at school.
 NO → Proceed to Question 3

3. Do any of the children you are dropping off have any of these symptoms? Note, symptoms related to a known chronic condition that are unchanged should not be considered reason to exclude.

- Fever ($\geq 100.4^\circ$) 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

If a child has any of these symptoms, they should go home, stay away from other people, and the family should contact the child's healthcare provider.



ATTACHMENT 2: Symptom Screening Checklist: Self Report of Symptoms

Each person entering the facility or school transportation vehicle will answer the following questions, either through verbal interview or written form prior to entering the facility or vehicle. The person conducting screenings or receiving completed forms from individuals should maintain a six-foot distance when asking questions.

SAMPLE

ANYONE SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 OR WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19 SHOULD NOT BE AT SCHOOL.

1. Since you were last at school, have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?

- YES
 NO

If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test, their symptoms, or is showing symptoms without a COVID-19 test, they should not be at school and should stay home until they meet the criteria below.

2. Have you had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 10 minutes) with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?

- YES → The child should not be at school.
 NO → Proceed to Question 3

3. Do you have any of these symptoms? Note, symptoms related to a known chronic condition that are unchanged should not be considered reason to exclude.

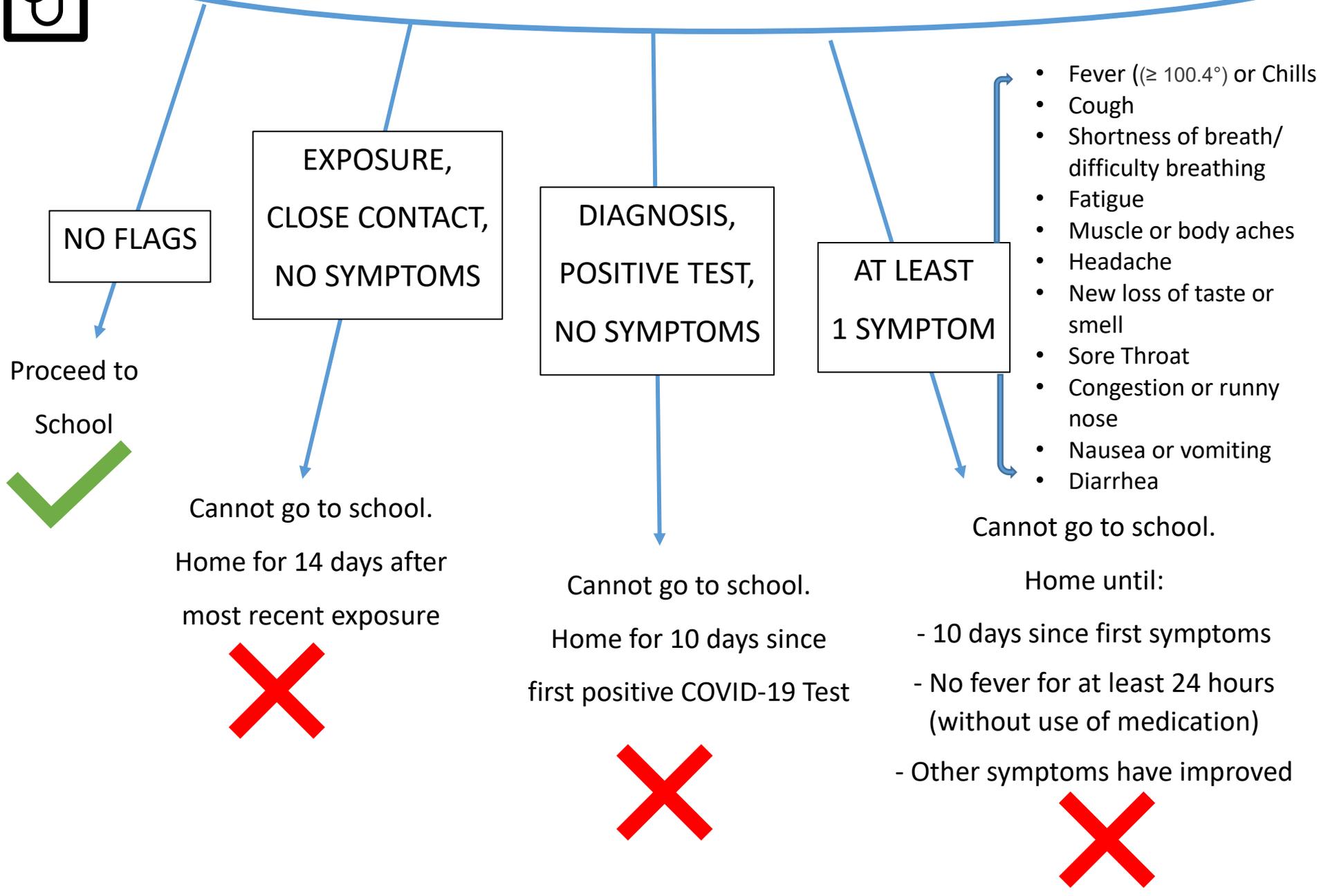
- Fever ($\geq 100.4^\circ$) or chills
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 Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 Fatigue
 Muscle or body aches
 Headache
 New loss of taste or smell
 Sore Throat
 Congestion or runny nose
 Nausea or vomiting
 Diarrhea

If a person has any of these symptoms, they should go home, stay away from other people, and contact their healthcare provider.

ATTACHMENT 3: Screening Flow Chart



Screen for COVID-19



Sick? ¿Enfermo?



Fever
Fiebre



Headache
Dolor de cabeza



Chills
Escalofríos



Sore Throat
Dolor de garganta



New loss of taste or smell
Nueva pérdida de sabor u olfato



Vomiting
Vómito



Fatigue
Fatiga



Muscle Pain
Dolor muscular



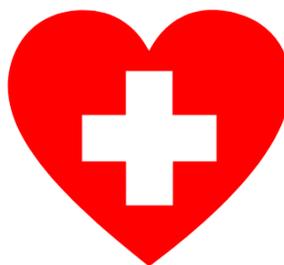
Diarrhea
Diarrea



Breathing Problems
Problemas respiratorios



Cough
Tos



Go see the nurse
Vaya a la enfermería



Nausea
Náusea



Congestion or runny nose
congestión o secreción nasal