



MINNEAPOLIS  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

# Let's keep schools open!

MARCH 1, 2021

## Families can help schools stay open and prevent the spread of COVID-19 by doing the following:

Keep students home if they are sick.

- EVERY DAY, check to see if your student has symptoms of being sick.
- Keep your student home if they have been exposed to COVID-19.

Teach your student to wear their face covering (mask) on the bus and at school.

## Other important information for families:

What to expect if your student is sick at school.

- Make sure your school has your current contact information.
- Have a plan for who can pick up your student if they are sick at school.

MPS process for reporting COVID-19 cases to families.

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION

# Families can help schools stay open and prevent the spread of COVID-19 by doing the following:



## KEEP STUDENTS HOME IF THEY ARE SICK.

**Every day, check to see if your student has symptoms of being sick:**  
See the Daily [Symptom Checker](#). Keep your student home if they have even **JUST ONE** symptom of being sick.

Before COVID-19 it might have been OK for students to come to school if they had a runny nose or other mild symptom of being sick. Today, we can't risk that.

**Please keep your student at home if they have ANY symptom.**

### Contact your school— we're here to help

**If you have any questions** about whether you should keep your student home or want to discuss their symptoms, **call the school health office.**

Let your school know your student is staying home sick to get an **excused absence.**

### The Minnesota Department of Health offers more information on

Home Screening Tool for COVID-19 Symptoms

COVID-19 Attendance Guide for Parents and Families



### WATCH THIS VIDEO

to understand what symptoms to look for in your student.

**Remember, keep your student home from school if they show **EVEN ONE** of these symptoms.**

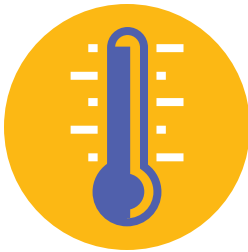


## DAILY SYMPTOM CHECKER.

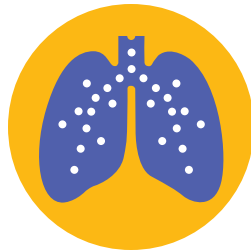
Every day, before sending your student to school, childcare, or youth program, check to see if they have any of these symptoms of being sick.

**EVEN IF THEY HAVE JUST ONE SYMPTOM,  
PLEASE KEEP THEM HOME!**

**THIS WILL HELP PROTECT YOUR STUDENT AND FAMILY, AND KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN.**



Fever



Difficulty  
breathing



Loss of  
taste or smell



Muscle  
pain



Nausea, diarrhea,  
or vomiting



Chills



Cough



Runny nose  
or congestion



Sore throat



Headache



Fatigue



## **KEEP YOUR STUDENT HOME IF THEY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19.**

**A student must not go to school, childcare, or youth programs if ANY of these are true about the student:**



**Tests positive for COVID-19.**



**Shows symptoms of COVID-19.**



**May have been exposed to COVID-19.**



**Has symptoms **AND** is waiting to get tested or is waiting for COVID-19 test results.**



**Household member has symptoms and is getting tested for COVID-19.**

### **NOTE**

Other children living with or in close contact with your student also need to stay home from school or child care until more information is gathered.

**Call your school and speak to health staff to make a plan on when it is safe for your student to return to school.**



## TEACH YOUR STUDENT TO WEAR THEIR FACE COVERING (MASK) ON THE BUS AND AT SCHOOL.



Teach your student to keep their face covering on at all times when they are riding the bus or other transportation.



Your student can take their face covering off at school only when they are eating or drinking. After they are done eating and drinking, they will put their face covering on right away. Eating and drinking is not allowed on buses or other school transportation.



Help your student understand that by keeping their face covering on, they are helping protect themselves and everyone they care for from becoming sick.



A few students may have a medical or safety reason they cannot wear a face covering. Families should talk to the school health office staff to find the best solution for your student.



Give your student a few clean face coverings to bring to school every day.



Your student may need to change face coverings during the day. Students have recess, gym class, and other activities that may cause a face covering to get wet or dirty.



Your school will have extra face coverings for students who need one.



### WATCH THIS VIDEO

Watch this video with your student to help them understand how to safely wear a face covering.

# Other important information for families:



## WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOUR STUDENT IS SICK AT SCHOOL.



**If your student comes to school and is sick**

**They will be sent home.**



**If your student starts to feel sick at school**

**They will need to go home.**

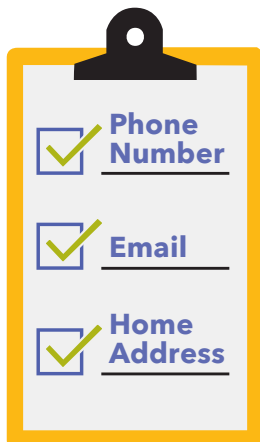
**Families should have back-up plans for childcare if your student needs to:**

1. Come home in the middle of the school day due to feeling sick.
2. Quarantine for 14 days due to being exposed to COVID-19 at school.



### WATCH THIS VIDEO

Find out more about how your student will be taken care of if they get sick at school.



### Make sure your school has your current contact information.

**More than ever, it's very important to make sure your school has all your current contact information:**

- Phone number · Email · Home address
- Have a plan for who can pick up your student if they are sick at school.
- Also provide your school with the name and contact information of a backup person they may contact in an emergency.



## **MPS PROCESS FOR REPORTING COVID CASES TO FAMILIES.**

**Families should be aware that if there is a case of COVID-19 at school, they will be contacted by the principal, school health staff or by someone from a public health organization.**

**1**

**If a student comes into close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID, families will be given instructions on how their student will need to quarantine.**

**2**

**If the student did not come into close contact with the person with COVID, the student will NOT need to quarantine.**

**3**

**Due to the confidentiality of medical information, families will not be told who has tested positive.**