

## RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER ILLNESS

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**We will adhere to the following process for allowing a student or staff member to return to school:**

- If a person has had a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.
- If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a medical professional based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until they (or a family member if younger child) can answer YES to the following three questions:
  - Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
  - Has it been at least 24 hours since the individual had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)?
  - Has there been symptom improvement, including cough and shortness of breath?
- If a student/employee has been diagnosed by a medical professional due to symptoms, they are not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.
- A person can return to school, following normal school policies, if they receive written confirmation of an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider that would explain the COVID-19-like symptom(s), once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.
- We will notify local health authorities of confirmed COVID-19 cases among children and staff (as required by [NCGS § 130A-136](#)). We will communicate with staff, faculty, and MCA families as directed by NCDHHS if a positive case or exposure has occurred. We will communicate only as directed by NCDHHS in accordance with FERPA and HIPAA laws. MCA must legally act in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). As such, we may not share private information including health status about a student or students. Please know that if you ask about a specific student or students, we cannot legally provide you with that information.
- If a student/employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they must remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.
- If a student/employee has been determined to have been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of school in quarantine for 14 days since the last date of exposure unless they test positive. In which case, exclusion criteria above would apply. Quarantine refers to an individual who has been a close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes cumulatively over a 24-hour period) of someone who is positive with COVID-19.

As of December 2, 2020, the CDC has offered options to reduce the duration of quarantine in either of the following two scenarios:

- 10 days of quarantine have been completed and no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring

- 7 days of quarantine have been completed, no symptoms have been reported during daily 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

If quarantine is discontinued before day 14, the individual must continue to monitor symptoms and strictly adhere to all non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g. wear a mask, practice social distancing) through 14 days after the date of last exposure.

It is important to note that the return after 7 days is linked to a negative COVID-19 test no earlier than day 5 of the quarantine. An earlier test than day 5 will not relieve the quarantine. If you are fine and do not want to take the test, then 10 days will be the new quarantine period.

- We will provide remote learning options for students unable to be at school due to illness or exposure.