



Return to School Policy

A. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Policy is to set the guidelines by which a student or staff member who has experienced any of the below may return to the School's premises. These guidelines are to be in compliance with applicable guidance at all times. If at anytime these guidelines do not comply with this guidance the School shall endeavor to update this Policy as soon as possible and may, in the meantime, refer students, legal guardians, and staff directly to the New Mexico Department of Health's, the New Mexico Public Education Department's website, or any other applicable governmental entity website for current guidance.

1. "Close Contact" with a non-household member positive for COVID-19.;
2. Living with a household member that tested positive for COVID-19;
3. Confirmed COVID-19 with accompanying symptoms not accompanied by hospitalization and/or the individual is not considered immunosuppressed;
4. Confirmed COVID-19 without accompanying symptoms;
5. Traveling to a location outside New Mexico where the average daily cases of COVID-19 are 8 or more per 100,000 and a Test Positivity of 5% or greater;
6. Traveling to a location inside New Mexico where the average daily cases are 8 or more per 100,000 and a Test Positivity of 5% or greater;
7. COVID-19-like Symptoms from a Chronic Condition;

B. **"Close Contact" with a non-household member positive for COVID-19.** The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) defines "Close contact" as a situation where an individual has an exposure of three minutes or longer within six feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case with or without a face covering or was in the same class or cohort as a confirmed COVID-19 case in a school or was on the same bus as a confirmed COVID-19 case. In order to return to School premises all of the following criteria must be met:

1. At least 14 consecutive days since the day after the close contact with someone outside of the household that tested positive for COVID-19 must have passed;
2. No one else in the individual's family tested positive for COVID-19 since the date of exposure; and
3. The individual has not developed symptoms since the date of exposure.

The individual is encouraged but not required to receive a negative test for COVID-19 before returning to school.

- C. **Living with a household member positive for COVID-19.** In order to return to School premises all of the following criteria must be met:
1. It has been at least 24 consecutive days since someone in the household tested positive for COVID-19;
 2. The individual has completed at least 24 consecutive days of home quarantine since the household member's symptom onset or the day they were tested for COVID-19;
 3. No one else in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 during this 24-day period; and
 4. The individual has not developed symptoms during this 24-day period.

The individual is encouraged but not required to receive a negative test for COVID-19 before returning to school.

- D. **Confirmed COVID-19 with accompanying symptoms not accompanied by hospitalization and/or the individual is not considered immunosuppressed.**

1. At least 10 consecutive days have passed since the symptoms first appeared not counting the first day of symptoms;
2. At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
3. There is improvement in symptoms

- E. **Confirmed COVID-19 without accompanying symptoms.** In a situation where an individual has been confirmed to have COVID-19 but does not have any symptoms the following criteria must be met in order to return to the School's premises:

1. At least 10 consecutive days have passed since the day after the COVID-19 test day of specimen collection.

- F. **Travel Outside of New Mexico.** Per the current New Mexico Public Health Order travel to a location outside of New Mexico where the average daily cases are 8 or more per 100,000 and there is a test positivity of 5% or greater requires the traveler to quarantine for at least 14 days. And so if a student or staff member has traveled to such a location the individual must quarantine for a period of at least 14 days from the date of reentry into the State. A list of these states can be found at <https://cv.nmhealth.org/travel-recommendations/>.

- G. **Travel to a Location Inside of New Mexico.** If a student or staff member has traveled to a county within New Mexico where the average daily cases are 8 or more per 100,000 and there is a test positivity of 5% or greater the individual must do one of the following before returning to school premises:

1. Quarantine and not return to school until he/she/they have taken a COVID-19 test more than 7 days after returning home from the travel. The individual may not return to school until negative test results have been received by them and transmitted to School administration; or
2. Quarantine for 14 days and having no symptoms after those 14 days.

H. COVID-19-like Symptoms from a Chronic Condition.

1. Any student or staff member with chronic condition that may present with symptoms similar, must provide a letter from their medical professional stating that the condition is chronic to the patient and does not indicate the presence of COVID-19.
2. If the student or staff member with the chronic condition experiences a change in those symptoms he/she/they must notify the Head Administrator and have a negative test for COVID-19 and must have been quarantining while awaiting the results.

I. Notification

1. Any staff member experiencing any of the above situations must notify the Head Administrator immediately to arrange for an alternative work setting or for leave under the Family First Coronavirus Leave Act if also unable to telework.
2. If the individual is a student, the student or legal guardian should notify the Head Administrator immediately so that arrangements for the student to be kept current with his or her or their school work can be made.

J. Penalties for Non-Compliance.

1. Failure of a staff member to comply with this Policy may result in disciplinary action including termination or discharge.
2. Failure of a student or legal guardian to comply with this Policy may result in disciplinary action including suspension from school.