



## 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. A positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptomatic of COVID-19 where the individual does not have a severe illness or severe immunosuppression;
4. A positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptomatic of COVID-19 where the individual has a severe illness or severe immunosuppression; or
5. 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 10 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 10 consecutive days since the household member's symptom onset or the day he or she or they tested positive for COVID-19;
2. The individual has completed at least 14 consecutive days of home quarantine since the household member's symptom onset or the day they tested positive 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. A positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptomatic of COVID-19 where the individual does not have a severe illness or severe immunosuppression**

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. A positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptomatic of COVID-19 where the individual has a severe illness or severe immunosuppression.**

1. At least 20 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.

**F. 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.

**G. Fully Vaccinated Persons.** A student or staff member who is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and has a close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 and the contact occurred during that person's infectious period is not required to quarantine if all of the following criteria are met:

1. The individual has been fully vaccinated ( $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine); and
2. Is within 3 months following the receipt of the last dose in the series; and

3. Has remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

If all three of the above criteria are not met, the student or staff member must meet other applicable criteria to be able to return to campus.

#### **H. 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 Coronavirus Paid Sick Leave Policy 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.

#### **I. 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.