

Springfield School District
COVID-19 Guidance & FAQ's
2021-22



In an effort to provide clarity regarding our COVID-19 procedures, this document will help identify and clarify how the school district will handle COVID-19 in our school.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times and please understand that procedures may need to evolve.

Below are Frequently Asked Questions/Topics and Related Guidance:

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Our Common Goal

Our goal is to keep our children learning in school with each other and preferably unmasked, while keeping our students, staff members, and community safe.

We also must be considerate about the fact that the decisions we make within this building and decisions you make at home have a direct impact on our fellow community members.

We all need to do our part to reasonably and responsibly mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This effort benefits our community members to allow access to healthcare when needed and help our more strictly governed businesses, such as our daycares remain open.

We appreciate and need our parents to be proactive by providing the school with documentation, such as COVID vaccine records or records of lab confirmed positive cases within the last 90 days. It is realistic to assume that, at some point, your child will be a close contact. These records will aid in determining the best course of action for your child and even provide evidence that quarantining may not be necessary.

Expectations of Responsible Behavior and Citizenship

We ask that parents and students are honest about their symptoms when being assessed by the school nurse or when communicating with the school about their symptoms and situation. If your child is being assessed by the nurse or another staff member, please encourage them to be respectful and honest about their symptoms and situation.

If your child has been wearing a mask or if they have minor symptoms of allergies or a previous illness, this will be taken into consideration when determining if they may remain in school.

In the best interest of our school and community, we need parents and households to be forthright with COVID-19 or any other contagious illness that they may be dealing with at home. We all have a responsibility to society to do our part to prevent any illness we may be dealing with onto others.

What are the COVID-19 symptoms to look out for?

Major Symptom #1: If your child's temperature is 100.4° or higher, you must keep them home.

Major Symptom #2: If your child has a cough and/or struggling with breathing, you must keep them home.

Major Symptom #3: If your child has lost their taste or smell, you must keep them home.

Minor Symptoms #4: If your child has **more than one** of the following minor symptoms of a sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, extreme fatigue, bad headaches, nasal congestion, runny nose, you must keep them home.

Be advised that diarrhea and stomach issues is becoming a more common symptom in youth.

Here is a link to the COVID-19 Decision Tree: [COVID-19 Decision Tree](#)

What do I do if somebody in my household is being tested for COVID-19?

If somebody in your immediate household is being tested for COVID-19, all other members of your household must stay home until test results are received, unless you are vaccinated (proof of vaccination is required) and showing no symptoms.

If you have had a lab confirmed, positive case within the last 90 days, or are fully vaccinated and have no symptoms, you may continue to come to school and monitor for symptoms. If you have a question regarding this, please contact our school nurse.

Under no circumstance is it okay for a child to return to school while they are awaiting their test results.

What to do if your child has a positive COVID-19 result?

If your child has symptoms, your child will need to quarantine for 10-days from the onset of symptoms. The first day of symptoms being day 0.

If your child is asymptomatic, but has a positive test result, they must quarantine 10-days, day 0 being the day the test was taken.

What are my options if another person in my household test positive for COVID-19?

If you have a positive case in your household, any staff member, or student/sibling (unless vaccinated and symptom free) must stay home and complete one of the following quarantine processes that fits your situation.

1. If you have had a lab confirmed COVID-19 test within the last 90 days or are vaccinated and have no symptoms, you may continue to come to school and monitor for symptoms. If later, you develop symptoms you will be required to go home and either
 - a. Take a test and provide lab confirmed negative test results, 5-7 days from your last known exposure or
 - b. Begin a quarantine period of 14 days from the onset of your symptoms.
2. If the positive family member can quarantine outside of the household for the 10-day quarantine period, **consideration** will be taken in allowing other family members to return to school as long as they have had no exposure to the positive family member and can provide a negative, lab confirmed, COVID test result, taken 7-10 days after the last exposure to the positive family member. The same consideration will be taken if children are able to stay outside of the home with other family members/friends and provide the school with a negative, lab confirmed test result, 7-10 days after the last exposure to the positive family member.
3. If all family members remain in the same household, everyone must quarantine. Those that do not have positive test results must continue to quarantine for an additional 6 days after the last positive person in your household has completed their 10-day quarantine period and can return to school on day 7 with a negative test result. The effected staff member or sibling will be expected to test again on day 10 and will need a negative test result to stay in school.

What do I do if I have been exposed/close contact to a person that has tested positive to COVID-19?

You would fall in one of the two categories below:

- A. If you are unvaccinated and are a close contact, you have the following options.
 - 1. Stay home and complete the recommended 14-day quarantine process.
 - 2. Return to school as normal given you are having no symptoms. However, if you begin to demonstrate symptoms at school, you will be sent home. Once sent home, you will **not** be allowed back in school unless you
 - a. present the school with a lab confirmed negative COVID test result 7-10 days after the last known exposure or
 - b. you quarantine at home for the remainder of the 14-day period, after the last known exposure.
- B. If you have provided the school with proof of a lab confirmed COVID-19 test within the last 90 days or are fully vaccinated, you may return to school and monitor for symptoms. If you begin to demonstrate symptoms at school, you will be sent home.

Once sent home, you will not be allowed back in school unless you

- a. present the school with a lab confirmed, negative COVID-19 test results 5-7 days after the last known exposure or
- b. you quarantine at home for the remainder of the 14-day period, after the last known exposure.

How will the school treat other illnesses that are not COVID-19?

We fully recognize that not every illness in our school is COVID-19 and we are doing our best to mitigate the spread of COVID, while being considerate to other situations.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 presents with many of the same symptoms of other illnesses. We will do the very best we can to determine the correct course of action on an individual basis.

Please be patient and understanding with us as we navigate this process and please try to refrain from comparing your situations to other situations.

We cannot divulge information to you surrounding other students' situations and their course of action. Please trust that we are being fair with the information that we know.

How will the school treat other illnesses that are not COVID-19?(continued)

Considerations will be taken as we assess each individual situation, for example:

If a child that has another illness such as allergies or are they recovering from a previous illness and have symptoms, but are not considered contagious?

We recognize that this situation may present itself. Please be prepared to provide us with doctor's notes stating your child's illness (seasonal allergies included), symptoms, and when they are considered no longer contagious.

Any child that presents with residual symptoms from another known illness (including seasonal allergies) may be asked to wear a mask until their symptoms subside. If the child does not comply with mask wearing, they may be sent home and not allowed to return until their symptoms subside.

It will be important for the school to understand if your child has been a close contact to a person/student with a positive COVID- 19 case because of the difficulty differentiating between COVID-19 and other illnesses. If your child has been exposed, we may need to treat your child as a suspected COVID-19 case, even if they are still recovering from another illness. This may potentially require them to follow the protocol of a COVID-19 exposure or provide the school evidence of a negative COVID-19 test.

Will the school provide a COVID-19 test option?

The school district has an in-school COVID-19 rapid test option – “CUE” test that is 98% accurate. This testing will be done with parent permission.

Testing capacity within our medical facilities can be overwhelmed and limited and this serves as an effective resource to help determine if a child is able to be in school.

Families can still test at home. However, by Minnesota Department of Health guidelines at home test results, specifically positive results, are not recognized. A recognized positive test result is important as it can eliminate the need for a 90-day quarantine in the event of a future exposure to COVID-19.

Can families contact the school and do a drive up test?

Yes. Please contact the school nurse at 507-723-4283 Ext 102 or by email at nurses@springfield.mntm.org. They can arrange a time to meet by door E1 to perform a drive up test for you.