

# The Dominican

COMMUNITY of SCHOOLS

## COVID-19 Health Plan

### St. Agnes Academy – St. Dominic School

The purpose of this policy is to outline the St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School Health Plan during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC, TN Department of Health, Shelby County Health Department, and LeBonheur Children's Hospital guidelines have been carefully considered and adapted to address and promote the safety, health, and welfare of our students, faculty, and community. *Criteria may become more or less restrictive moving forward, depending on the most current guidelines. This is a working document and all information is subject to change.*

There remains epidemiological uncertainty, a lack of established precedent, and insufficient data to make recommendations that entirely remove risk from returning to school. It is likely that, despite the implementation of all the recommendations and safety protocols, staff and students may still be infected and develop COVID-19. The risk cannot be eliminated. All requirements set forth in this document are meant to provide children, teachers, and staff with an environment that promotes safe practices for being in the classroom, moving about the school and during activities, and limiting the amount of coronavirus in the air.

#### NOTIFICATION:

To help us track any illness, please contact the administrative assistant associated with each school division. If your student is going to be absent for illness, absent for any other reason, or check-in late, please notify the following people:

- NURSE - Sandra Miller & Nina Gardner [health@saa-sds.org](mailto:health@saa-sds.org)
- ECC - Emily Morton [emorton@saa-sds.org](mailto:emorton@saa-sds.org)
- SAA LS - Tammy Brooks [tbrooks@saa-sds.org](mailto:tbrooks@saa-sds.org)
- SDS - Diane Pirozzi [dmpirozzi@saa-sds.org](mailto:dmpirozzi@saa-sds.org)
- SAA-SDS JH - Tammy Brooks [tbrooks@saa-sds.org](mailto:tbrooks@saa-sds.org)
- US - Renata Novarese [rnovarese@saa-sds.org](mailto:rnovarese@saa-sds.org)

Please be sure that parent contact numbers as well as approved persons to pick up your student in case of illness or emergency have been updated in MyBackpack as well as the emergency information form given at registration. Depending on the severity of the illness or injury, the nurse will contact an emergency contact person for the child if unable to reach the child's parent(s) first.

The child who is ill with COVID symptoms must be picked up and signed out with the appropriate office **within sixty minutes** of parent/emergency contact, for the safety of other students and our faculty. If there are siblings of the ill student or children of the ill staff in school, they will be checked out as well.

#### GENERAL ILLNESS:

Students who feel ill or present symptoms of illness should **not** come to school. Tylenol, Advil, Ibuprofen, Aleve, Excedrin or any other fever-reducing medications should not be administered prior to school in the event that it masks symptoms. If a student or staff needs to miss school for symptoms of any illness, we request you notify the appropriate division office **and** the School Nurse by email (see above contact information).

Should a student or staff present symptoms for **any** illness while at school, we will escort the student to a comfortable isolated area, and they will be seen by our school nurse for evaluation. The school nurse will contact the parent and the Dean regarding steps taken and whether the student or staff needs to leave campus.

Students or staff should not come to school if they are exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Nausea and/or Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Strep throat
- Unexplained rash
- Skin infections
- Undiagnosed redness or swelling of the eye
- Severe congestion with or without a cough
- New onset severe headache, especially with a fever

Students or staff may return to school when the following parameters are met:

- 24 hours after last episode of vomiting and/or diarrhea
- 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medications such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin)
- Antibiotic therapy for a full 24 hours for bacterial infections (such as pink eye, strep throat, or other bacterial infections)
- Cold symptoms are mild enough so as not to interfere with participation in school activities or infect others.
- 24 hours after being discharged from an emergency department or hospital
- A healthcare provider's note must be present for severe skin infections clearing student to return to school
- **Doctor's note of clearance with a date of return upon request from the school nurse**

St. Agnes Academy – St. Dominic School will continue to support students with acute or chronic health conditions. Short-term absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the parent in touch with school officials. Long-term absences will be considered if criteria is appropriate for medical leave or other potential medical accommodations.

## **COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:**

Should a student or staff present with symptoms related to COVID-19, we will assess them in a pre-designated, comfortable area within the school division building, and based on our determination, we may ask that the parent or guardian pick them up within 60 minutes. In the event that a student is sent home due to COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test, **the siblings of the ill student or children of the ill staff will be sent home as well.** For an Upper School student who drives, parents will be notified that the student is departing campus.

COVID-19 symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and typically include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches with unknown cause
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible COVID-19 symptoms. Children and adolescents with COVID-19 may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms. Therefore, in order to rule out COVID-19, the school reserves the right to request a COVID-19 test before returning to campus. When determining a need for testing the school will take into consideration whether or not the student was in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual as well as the community transmission rate.

- For a student who has symptoms and tests positive for the virus, the student should isolate for 10 days.
- If a student has symptoms and had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and tests negative or does not test, the student should quarantine for 10 days with an option to test out after day 5 with a return on day 8.
- If a student has symptoms but has not had a close contact, then the school will take into consideration the risk of transmission in the school and community.
  - If there was no close contact, then the student will stay home until symptoms improve, per general illness policies.

With the Delta variant even minor cold or allergy symptoms cannot be ignored. The school reserves the right to request a negative COVID-19 test before returning to campus.

Any student or staff with a known or possible COVID-19 exposure and/or with any new presenting symptom should be seen by a physician and should have a COVID-19 test.

Any student or staff presenting with any new symptom may be considered to have a COVID-19 like illness. They will be isolated until they are picked up by a parent/emergency contact.

COVID-19 testing is highly recommended. If an individual who is ill with symptoms of COVID-19 has a doctor's note confirming the illness is not due to COVID-19 but another diagnosis confirmed by lab results (i.e. strep with positive strep test, mono, UTI) then that student/staff may return to school at the discretion of the doctor after being fever free for at least 24 hours and symptoms have improved.

However, if the diagnosis is a respiratory and viral condition that cannot be confirmed by a lab test (i.e. upper respiratory tract infection (URI), pneumonia (without a chest x-ray), sore throat without positive strep test, viral illness, sinus infection, seasonal allergies, etc) the student will not be able to return to school without a negative COVID-19 test. If not COVID-19 tested, the student/staff will be considered as positive and will need to isolate for 10 days from the onset of their symptoms AND be fever free for at least 24 hours AND symptoms have improved before returning to school. Siblings will need to follow quarantine protocol. A doctor's note of clearance with a date of return may be needed upon request from the school nurse.

At this time, only nasal swab test results are accepted by the school for a COVID-19 like illness. While a send-off PCR swab is the most accurate test, a rapid antigen or a rapid PCR are acceptable. COVID-19 antibody blood tests are not accepted by the school. The school will not accept results of at-home COVID tests.

**The school reserves the right to request a medical note of clearance with a date of return for any illness.** We will always make decisions based on the safety of our school community.

### **PENDING COVID-19 TEST:**

If a student, student's household family member or caregivers (including nannies, sitters, etc...), or staff member have a pending COVID-19 test result, they should **NOT** come to campus, nor should their siblings or children (staff).

Exceptions are:

- Testing without known exposure or symptoms
- Testing prior to a medical procedure or surgery
- Testing of employees on a regular basis without exposure/symptoms, example: St Jude employee, healthcare workers.
- Fully vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals.

## **POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST (Isolation):**

Any student or staff with a positive COVID-19 test should stay home and NOT come to school. They should stay at home, **isolate**, email the school nurse, and contact those individuals deemed in close contact 2 days prior to being symptomatic or 2 days prior to testing. For the safety of the school community and to help stop the spread, we ask that you notify the school of any other school community members that would be affected by your positive test. Parents should notify the TN Commissioner of Health immediately if someone in their household (adults and school-aged children) has a positive test. Sick teachers or staff should do the same. The school will also notify the TN Commissioner of Health of confirmed COVID-19 infection, as well as anyone who is deemed a close contact while on our campus.

If staff or student is symptomatic and COVID-19 positive, return to school may occur after:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND**
- 24 hrs fever-free **AND**
- Respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) **AND**
- Contact the school nurse prior to return for an assessment and return to school plan.

If staff or student tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms, return to school may occur **AFTER**:

- 10 days have passed since positive test **AND**
- Contact the school nurse prior to return for an assessment and return to school plan.

The School Nurse must be notified prior to faculty or student's return to school to discuss re-entry plans. Please email [health@saa-sds.org](mailto:health@saa-sds.org) to discuss a return to school plan which will include wearing a mask on campus through day 14.

## **CLOSE CONTACT (Quarantine):**

If a student or staff is in close contact with someone who has tested positive and the individual is not vaccinated, then the CDC & TDH recommends you quarantine for 10 days from your last exposure, monitor for symptoms, and follow current CDC guidelines. If symptoms develop or a student/staff has a positive test during the quarantine period, the individual should start and complete isolation as stated above.

Close Contact includes:

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes.\*\*
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them.)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils.
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

\*\*Exception per the SCHED: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed, the close contact definition excludes students who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

In quarantine, you should stay home for 7-14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. Even if you test negative for COVID-19 immediately or feel healthy, you should stay home (quarantine) since symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Please note if quarantine starts at noon on day 1, then it would end at noon on the last day. Household contacts of COVID-19 positive individuals may be required to quarantine for a longer period of time, depending upon the circumstances.

If someone in your home tests positive, please let us know that the student needs to quarantine.

### **Quarantine EXCEPTIONS:**

- Previous COVID-19 positive cases (within the past 90 days) who are in close contact with an individual with COVID-19, do not require quarantine as long as they have recovered and are not exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms.

- Fully vaccinated individuals DO NOT need to quarantine, but are required to mask and monitor symptoms for 14 days. Testing is recommended, particularly if symptoms arise. Proof of vaccination may be requested.

***Please note, for Unvaccinated Persons - per the CDC and TDH, antibody testing is NOT accepted for return to school for persons exposed in daycare and K-12 settings. Quarantine will be required.***

The following are acceptable alternative options to shorten quarantine time period:

- Quarantine can end **AFTER** day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring with a return to campus on day 11.
- Quarantine can end **AFTER** day 7 with a return to campus on day 8 with a negative test taken on day 5, 6, or 7, from exposure and no symptoms.

## **VACCINATION:**

All students/faculty/staff who have been vaccinated or have started the vaccination series (Moderna or Pfizer) are asked to please email the following information to [immunizations@saa-sds.org](mailto:immunizations@saa-sds.org): Name, vaccination name (J & J, Moderna, or Pfizer), date of last shot, and if your child participates in a sport. We will use this information for contact tracing purposes to determine who will be restricted from campus.

People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two or more weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), OR two or more weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen). Faculty/Staff/Students who are fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine after an exposure to an individual with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 if they meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

*However, they will be required to mask on campus for 14 days following exposure.*

Those faculty/staff/students who do not meet all of the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance after exposure to an individual with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

The CDC recommends that any fully vaccinated person who experiences symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should isolate and be tested. Fully vaccinated household contacts who cannot separate from the case in the home should get tested 3-5 days after initial exposure to the case and after the end of the case's isolation (after day 10).

## **CONTACT TRACING:**

If a positive COVID case is identified on campus during school hours, or if the school is notified of a positive case that has been on campus within the last 48 hours, the following steps will be taken by the Health Team to perform thorough contact tracing and to communicate with the members of our community who are affected:

- **POSITIVE CASE IDENTIFIED ON CAMPUS**
  - Positive individual is isolated in a safe, comfortable environment and will be masked. Parent/guardian is called to pick up child within 60 minutes.
  - Close contacts (individuals within 3-6 ft for a 24 hour cumulative time of 15 minutes or more) during the individual's infectious period (48 hours prior to symptoms or positive test) are identified through positive individual's interview, faculty/staff interviews, lunch contacts, seating charts, carpool/transportation contacts, sports/extracurriculars, etc.
  - Individuals identified as close contacts will be placed in an isolated area and will be masked while parent/guardian is notified of restriction from campus by a school official.
  - An email from leadership will be sent to those families affected with further information regarding restriction from campus, quarantine and classroom protocols.

- POSITIVE CASE REPORTED AFTER SCHOOL HOURS, BUT WITHIN 48 HOUR INFECTIOUS PERIOD:
  - Close contacts during the individual's infectious period (48 hours prior to symptoms or positive test) are identified through positive individual's interview, faculty/staff interviews, lunch contacts, seating charts, carpool/transportation contacts, sports/extracurriculars, etc..
  - Individuals identified as close contacts will be notified via phone and/or email and restricted from campus.
  - An email from leadership will be sent to those families affected with further information regarding restriction from campus, quarantine and classroom protocols.
  - *To help make the contact tracing process smoother in this situation, we ask that any positive individual, please notify individuals they feel are considered a close contact in the SAA-SDS community.*

## COMMUNICATION:

SAA-SDS is committed to keeping the lines of communication open and to working together with parents to ensure the safest possible environment for your child. In an effort to keep our community informed, we have created a dashboard in the Parent Portal that reflects any positive cases on campus by division.

The school will notify parents via email if a member of your child's class tests positive for COVID-19. If your child is deemed to have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive, the school will notify you via email or phone call.

The school will send an email notification as well as a follow up email providing updates as needed. Emails will be sent from the Dean with the subject line COVID-19 Class Update. Due to privacy regulations names will not be shared. St Agnes Academy-St Dominic School has created a **COVID-19 Support Team** that is ready to provide assistance for our families. This team includes members of our health, counseling, faith, and academic departments. They will be working in coordination to ensure the physical, academic and emotional needs of our students and families are being cared for. Should your family need support during this time, please reach out to us.

## DEFINITIONS:

**\*Close Contact** is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 cumulative minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset OR, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection, until the time the patient is isolated.

Close Contact includes:

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes.\*\*
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them.)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils.
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

\*\*Exception per the SCHD: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed, the close contact definition excludes students who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

**Cluster:** a COVID-19 cluster is two or more confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 that are linked by the same location of exposure (e.g., hospital, long-term care facility, grocery store, etc.) or exposure event (e.g., work party, vacation, etc.) that is not a household exposure.

**Coronavirus:** a specific type of virus named for the appearance of crown-like spikes on their surface. There are seven known types of coronaviruses that can infect human beings. A "novel" coronavirus is a new subtype of coronavirus to which human beings have not been previously exposed and are thus more susceptible to infection. SARS-CoV-2 is a novel coronavirus.

**COVID-19:** abbreviation of "Coronavirus Disease-2019". The name for the actual disease state caused by the coronavirus. COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 are often used interchangeably, though this is inaccurate. The term "COVID-19" should be used to discuss the disease, while SARS-CoV-2 should designate the virus itself.

**Epidemic:** an outbreak of disease that spreads quickly and affects many individuals at the same time.

**Fever:** technically defined as a body temperature of 100.4° F or higher.

**Fully Vaccinated:** In general people are considered fully vaccinated two or more weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), OR two or more weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen)

**Herd immunity:** resistance to the spread of a contagious disease within a population that results when a sufficient number of persons are immune either through prior infection and recovery or through vaccination. Herd immunity does not begin to develop until at least 60-70% of the population has been infected and recovered.

**Incubation period:** the duration of time it takes for an infected person to begin to physically manifest symptoms that can be outwardly observed.

**Influenza virus:** another specific type of virus from a different family than coronaviruses. There are several types of influenza viruses, of which only three typically cause infection in humans on a seasonal basis.

**Isolation:** medical isolation refers to confining a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case to prevent contact with others and to reduce the risk of transmission. Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

**Low-grade temperature:** classified as an oral temperature that is above 98.6° F but lower than 100.4° F for a period of 24 hours.

**Pandemic:** a specific type of epidemic — the outbreak of widespread disease — that spreads over greater geographic distances and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the population. Pandemics are relatively rare events, and not every epidemic qualifies as a pandemic. The World Health Organization declared the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak a pandemic in March 2020.

**Quarantine:** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. These people may have been exposed to a disease and do not know it, or they may have the disease but do not show symptoms.

**Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus-2:** abbreviated as SARS- CoV-2, the scientific name of the coronavirus causing the pandemic.

**Social Distancing:** also referred to as physical distancing, means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home.

**Vulnerable Individuals:** 65 yrs or older; underlying medical conditions, unvaccinated individuals regardless of age.

#### **USEFUL LINKS:**

Releasing Cases and Contacts from Isolation and Quarantine - TDH

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/Isolation-QuarantineRelease.pdf>

Quarantine and Isolation Calculator - TDH

<https://covid19.tn.gov/prevention/quarantine-isolation-calculator/>

Return to School Algorithm - TDH

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/TDH\\_Return\\_to\\_School\\_Algorithm.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/TDH_Return_to_School_Algorithm.pdf)

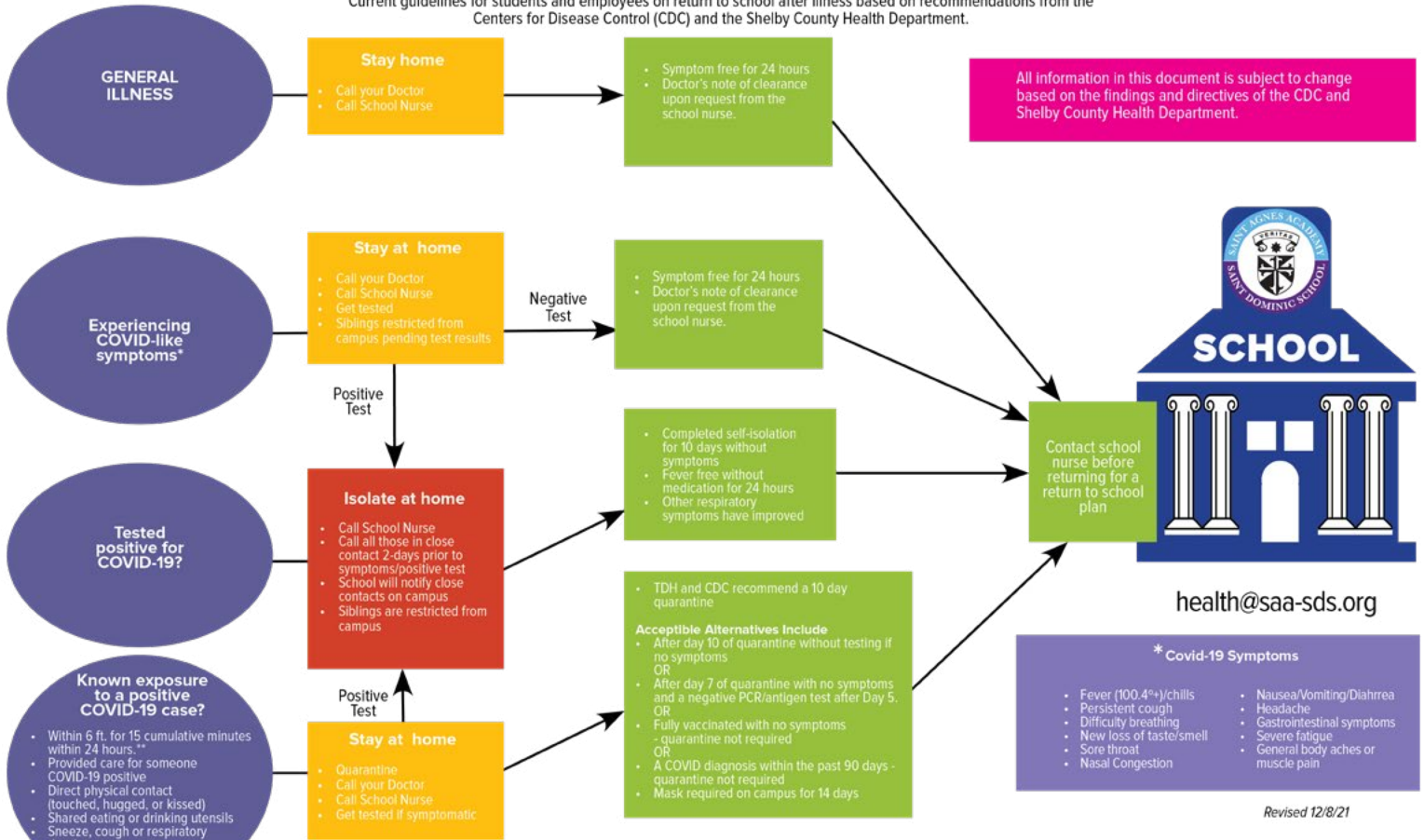
SAA-SDS Health and Safety Task Force

[health@saa-sds.org](mailto:health@saa-sds.org)

Revised December 8, 2021

# KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE - Know when to stay home

Current guidelines for students and employees on return to school after illness based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Shelby County Health Department.



All information in this document is subject to change based on the findings and directives of the CDC and Shelby County Health Department.



health@saa-sds.org

- \* Covid-19 Symptoms**
- Fever (100.4+)/chills
  - Persistent cough
  - Difficulty breathing
  - New loss of taste/smell
  - Sore throat
  - Nasal Congestion
  - Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea
  - Headache
  - Gastrointestinal symptoms
  - Severe fatigue
  - General body aches or muscle pain

Revised 12/8/21

\*\* Exception: Per the CDC, TDH and SCHD, in the indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.