NNSC Parent Information
COVID-Related Absences

We recognize and understand that student and staff illness are playing a greater part in regular, consistent attendance this year, particularly with COVID-19 related symptoms. There are many different scenarios that come into play as we help parents navigate the specific processes and procedures that schools must follow in order to adhere to the guidance from the Indiana State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The following information will help parents navigate attendance at school during these possible COVID-19 related absences.

Student Name:_____

Student is: Symptomatic   Close Contact of Positive   Sibling/Household
                                                                                                    Contact

Date Symptoms Began or Date of Contact:_____

Number of Days Student Must Quarantine: 10   20

        Other:_____

Date Student is to Return to School:_____
                                         Or with a negative COVID test if symptomatic
                                         Or with an alternate diagnosis from a doctor

Sports that may be affected:_____

Extracurricular that may be affected:_____

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Who do we contact to get classroom materials? Student's assignments may be uploaded into Google Classroom. If there are other classroom materials that your child needs, please communicate with your child's teachers. Students know their codes to enter their Google Classroom for each class. Students should take items with them home during their quarantine.

Can I go to after school events like games and other activities? No, if you are quarantined from school, you are also quarantined from all school activities until your return to school date.

Who is going to communicate with us? Please stay in contact with your child's teacher and school secretary to update us on possible COVID testing, symptoms that are not improved, or questions about getting classroom materials. Students should

know where to find their assignments in Google Classroom, through messaging the teacher, or collecting work from the office.

Who do I call if I have questions about my child's health? Lana Wynn is our health coordinator for the district, and nurse at North Newton Jr/Sr High School. Our health aides at each school are Alyssa Little at Lake Village Elementary, Jessica Schleman at Morocco Elementary, and Jill Wolber at Lincoln Elementary. You can also speak to your child's principal: Mrs. Hankins at Lake Village Elementary, Mrs. Lawbaugh at Morocco Elementary, Mrs. Neal at Lincoln Elementary and Mr. Coffing at North Newton Jr/Sr High School.

Do I need to inform my bus driver? Please communicate with your child's driver to let them know if your child will be riding the bus or not. The bus will continue to stop at your house since COVID-19 quarantines are fluid and change quite often.

Who else can I talk to about the Indiana Department of Health's Guidelines? You can call the Newton County Health Department to learn more about procedures and practices that all schools must follow.

If a child is sick with one symptom, does the entire family have to quarantine? Per the Indiana State Department of Health and our local health department, if a child is sick with at least one COVID-19 symptom, the sick child should quarantine for 10 days. The siblings and others in the household must also quarantine for 14 days.

If my child got sent home due to being a close contact, can we just go get a COVID test? There are two options available as of 8-24-21 with regard to close contact tracing. While the CDC and the IDOH continue to recommend quarantine for a full 14 days, there are two other options available for schools:

1. Return on Day 11 after 10 days of quarantine-no testing required to return to school.
2. Return on Day 8 after 7 days of quarantine-this option requires testing. Testing on days 5-7 at approved testing location, if negative return on Day 8, if positive isolate at home from 10 days from date of positive test. OR BinaxNOW test on day 8 at school, if negative stay/return on Day 8, if positive isolate at home for 10 days.

Why are some students quarantined for 10 days and others 14 days or any day in between? Each student's quarantine length is specific to their circumstances. *Think of it this way: A student who is already symptomatic has been contagious for 5-7 days prior to being symptomatic. They have a head start (infection-wise) on others who are not yet symptomatic.* There may also be differences in the time someone has been around an infected person which result in different lengths of quarantine time. Additionally, schools have been given flexibility (ISHD 8-24-21) to quarantine for shorter lengths of time based on testing.

ELearning and Attendance Expectations

The Indiana Department of Education and the North Newton School Corporation both believe in the importance of instructional time and student attendance in ensuring that students receive the best, highest quality educational opportunities that can be provided. There is an expectation for all students to adhere to the IDOE and state statutes regarding minimum instructional time requirements as set forth in Indiana Code 20-30-2 and 20-33-2.

Instructional time is defined by Indiana Code as time during which students are participating in an approved course, a curriculum, or an educationally related activity under the direction of a teacher; and includes a reasonable amount of passing time between classes. Instructional time does not include lunch or recess.

All schools must provide at least five (5) hours of instructional time for students in grades one (1) through six (6), and at least six (6) hours of instructional time for students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) in a day in order to count that as a day of instruction conducted during a school year.

Additionally, schools and parents must adhere to Compulsory Attendance laws which state: Any individual who is at least seven (7) years of age and less than eighteen (18) years of age is bound by compulsory attendance requirements until the individual either graduates, becomes eighteen (18) years of age, or becomes at least sixteen (16) years of age and meets the requirements to withdraw from school before graduation.

"Attend" means to be physically present and enrolled in a school or another location where the school's educational program is being conducted during regular school hours on a day in which the educational programming is being offered. Any student who is enrolled at a public or nonpublic school and accumulates at least ten (10) unexcused absences during a school year is considered habitually truant. Any student who accumulates at least ten (10) absences, excused or unexcused, during a school year is considered chronically absent."

In adherence to the state statutes governing attendance and compulsory attendance, the North Newton School Corporation will utilize the following attendance codes for students beginning in the 2020-2021 school year:

- In Attendance: student is considered in attendance at the physical school building, pursuant to our local attendance policy
- Excused Absence: student is not "in attendance" and such absence is deemed "excused" pursuant to our local attendance policy
- Unexcused Absence: student is not "in attendance" and such absence is deemed "unexcused" pursuant to our local attendance policy
- Exempt Absence: students is not "in attendance" but is participating in one of the activities that is exempt by statute from consideration as an "absence" (virtual or non-virtual)
- Suspended: student is suspended pursuant to local discipline policy (virtual or non-virtual)
- Expelled: student is expelled pursuant to local discipline policy (virtual or non-virtual)

For purposes of attendance, North Newton School Corporation students are considered to be In-Attendance when they:

- Are physically or remotely present in school for a length of time determined by their class schedule of classes; or
- Remotely present as determined when the school transitions to ELearning. Such activities may include daily lessons, weekly and longer projects, units of study. To be counted as present in grades K-6, a student must sign into their Google Classroom attendance check in, work through assignments posted by the teacher, and check out each day. For students in grades 7-12 to be counted present, the student must sign into Edmentum or Google Classroom and complete assignments as posted by the teacher; and make adequate process on lessons and activities assigned by the teacher. This is currently our ELearning attendance expectation.
- Participate in school activities, lessons and learning activities to the satisfaction of the classroom teacher assigned as their teacher for either ELearning or In-Person Learning; and
- Are authentically engaged in learning activities through active participation; and
- Are responsive to teacher questions, assignments and assigned tasks
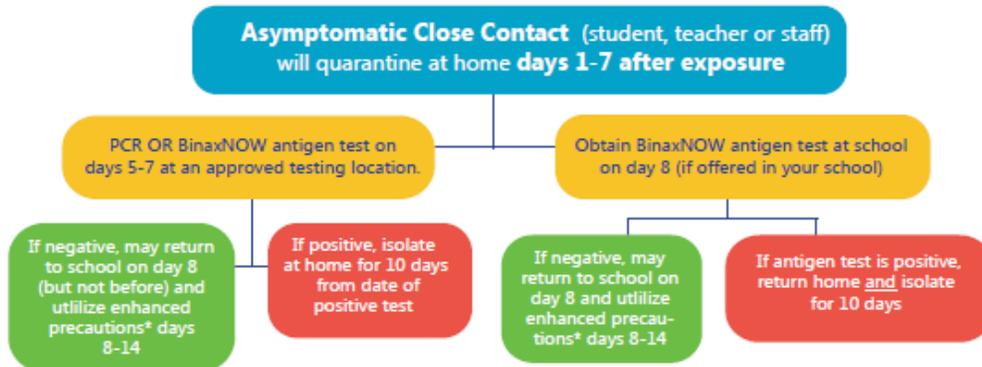
COVID-19 Guidance
Return from Quarantine Options for Asymptomatic Unvaccinated Individuals in the K-12 Environment

Indiana Department of Health

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) continue to recommend quarantine for a full 14 days and recognize that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the COVID virus. CDC and IDOH will continue to evaluate and update guidance and recommendations as necessary. Other than a full 14-day quarantine, there are two other options available for schools.

Option 1 - Return on day 11 after 10 days of quarantine-no testing required to return to school.
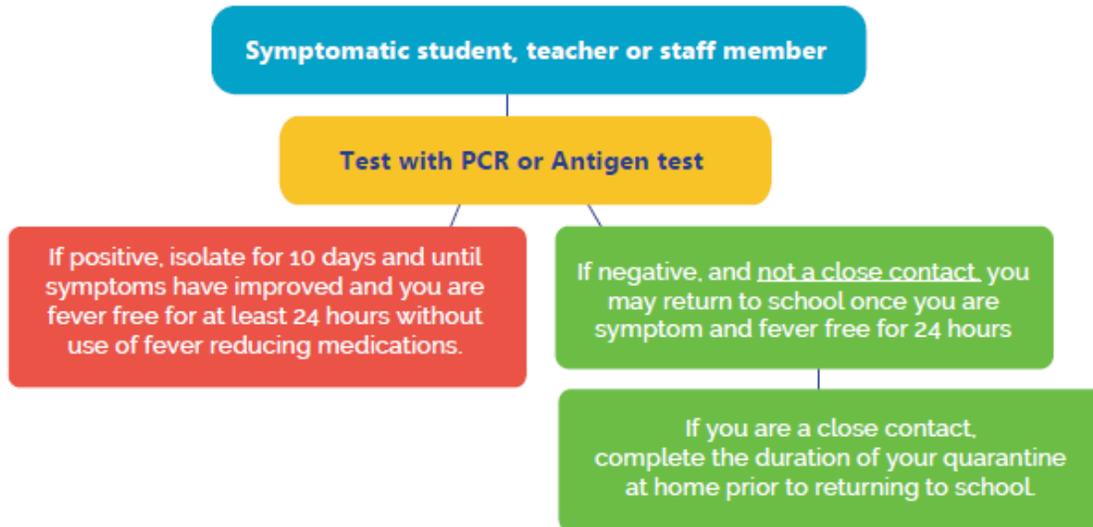
Option 2 - Return on day 8 after 7 days of quarantine-this option requires testing. **See algorithm.**

Asymptomatic Close Contact (student, teacher or staff) will quarantine at home **days 1-7 after exposure**

PCR OR BinaxNOW antigen test on days 5-7 at an approved testing location.

Obtain BinaxNOW antigen test at school on day 8 (if offered in your school)

If negative, may return to school on day 8 (but not before) and utilize enhanced precautions* days 8-14

If positive, isolate at home for 10 days from date of positive test

If negative, may return to school on day 8 and utilize enhanced precautions* days 8-14

If antigen test is positive, return home <u>and</u> isolate for 10 days

When returning prior to day 15
Individuals must monitor daily for symptoms and isolate and obtain a COVID test should symptoms develop through day 14
Individuals must follow enhanced precautions through day 14

Symptomatic Algorithm

Symptomatic student, teacher or staff member

Test with PCR or Antigen test

If positive, isolate for 10 days and until symptoms have improved and you are fever free for at least 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications.

If negative, and <u>not a close contact</u>, you may return to school once you are symptom and fever free for 24 hours

If you are a close contact, complete the duration of your quarantine at home prior to returning to school

8/24/21

COVID-19 Guidance
Return from Quarantine Options for Asymptomatic Unvaccinated Individuals in the K-12 Environment

Indiana Department of Health

The changes in definition apply only apply only to students in grades K-12 for the academic school day while in the classroom.

- IF at least 3 feet of separation is provided between students during the school day, when students are in the classroom AND when masks are always worn, contact tracing will not need to be completed if there is a positive case identified in the classroom with a minimum of 3 feet of space between classmates.
- The decrease to 3 ft for close contact tracing only works IF masks are consistently worn and other mitigation strategies are in place.
- Without consistent mask use and distancing to at least 3 feet in the classroom during the educational portion of the school day, you must contact trace to 6 feet.
- This exception does not apply to teachers and other adults in the classroom.

These changes DO NOT apply in high-risk classes such as band, orchestra, choir and show choir. Other high-risk classes may also need to be placed in this category. Changes do not apply for athletics, including cheerleading or other extra-curricular activities.

- Continue to mask at all times and distance AT LEAST 6 feet
- Close contacts are defined as anyone within 6 feet during athletics or other extra-curricular activities.

*Enhanced Precautions when returning prior to full 14-day quarantine

- Masked at all times on bus and during school day, no exceptions.
- Maintain distance of at least 3 feet from others at all times during the educational school day. The only time lesser distance of close contact is 3 feet is during the educational portion of the day when everyone is in the classroom and wearing a mask.
- Lunch to be eaten separately from others as mask will be off when eating. Remain 6 feet from others, no exceptions.
- Hand hygiene should be a priority.
- Symptom monitoring daily by parents, as needed by school staff, during the school day.
- If ANY signs or symptoms are identified while at home, student/teacher/staff should NOT come to school and should seek a COVID test.
- If symptoms develop during the school day, individual should be sent home as soon as possible to get a COVID test.
- If COVID test is positive, begin 10 days of isolation starting from the date symptoms began.
- If COVID test is negative, because individual is a close contact, must complete remainder (days 8-14) of 14-day quarantine and remain at home until symptoms improved and 24-hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication.

8/24/21
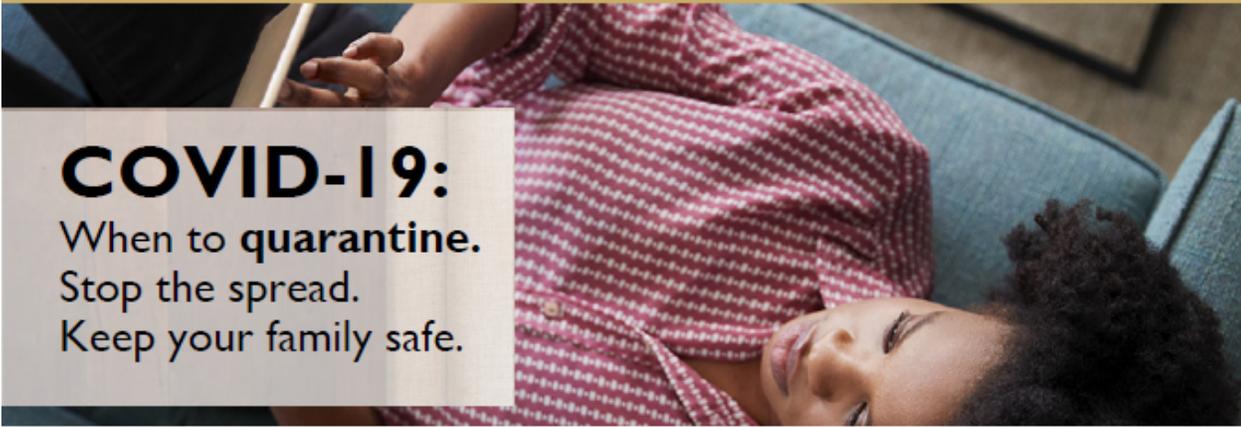
COVID-19:
When to **quarantine.**
Stop the spread.
Keep your family safe.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a contagious respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. People with COVID-19 sometimes have a cough, fever, feel like it's hard to breathe, or even lose their sense of taste or smell. Other symptoms include congestion or runny nose, diarrhea, headache, nausea or vomiting, muscle pain or fatigue, sore throat or chills. Symptoms range from mild to severe and may appear 2-14 days after exposure. People who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to 3 months as long as they do not develop symptoms again. People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms. People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease within the last three months and show no symptoms.

Who should quarantine?

If you or a member of your family has been in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period, even if you are wearing a mask to lower your risk of infection) with someone who has COVID-19, you should quarantine. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can happen before people know they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others and monitor their health. You should also quarantine if you provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19, had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them), shared eating or drinking utensils or if someone you know with COVID-19 sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you. If you are symptomatic or waiting for a test result, you and other members of your household should quarantine.

Why quarantine?

Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can happen before people know they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others and monitor their health.

How to quarantine:

- Stay home from work or school, or anywhere else even if you feel healthy.
- Answer the call from the Indiana Centralized Contact Tracing Program to help prevent the further spread of disease. The text will come from **877-548-3444.** You'll then receive a call from a contact tracer. The number on the caller ID will show as **833-670-0067** or may display as **"IN Health COVID"** if your carrier allows it.
- Wash your hands.
- Stay at least 6 feet from others, as much as possible, including siblings.
- Don't share personal items, such as silverware or glasses with anyone in your house.
- Use a different bathroom if you have one.
- Wear a cloth face covering if you must be around others.
- Get tested. Please stay home and quarantine as much as possible while waiting for test results. If test is positive, follow isolation guidelines. If test is negative, see instructions on Page 2.
- Watch for signs that you are sick, like a cough, fever or a headache, and other symptoms. Take your temperature twice a day and log with other symptoms on COVID-19 Symptom Tracker (on page 3).
- Complete your quarantine, even if your results are negative, before going to work or being around others.

When is my home quarantine over?

1. The CDC recommends a 14-day quarantine.

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring (symptom tracker on page 3 of this guidance).
- Although the CDC has said a 7-day quarantine might be allowable in certain circumstances, the Indiana Department of Health does not recommend a 7-day quarantine due to the current high levels of community transmission.

2. Persons can discontinue quarantine at day 10 if the following criteria are also met:

- The person has shown no symptoms of COVID-19 at any point during the entirety of quarantine up to the time at which quarantine is discontinued; and,
- Daily symptom monitoring continues through quarantine Day 14 (see log next page); and,
- All recommended preventive measures must continue through Day 14 of quarantine:
  - Practice good hand hygiene by washing with soap and water for a least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
  - Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people
  - Wear a mask over your nose and mouth when around others
  - Clean frequently touched surfaces often

3. If you are able, the safest option is to quarantine for 14 days.

- People who are close contacts of a confirmed case within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 do not need to quarantine as long as they do not have any new COVID-19 symptoms.
- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease within the last three months and show no symptoms.

14-day Fever and Symptom Tracker - COVID-19

Name		Age (years)	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

Street Address	City	State	Your Telephone Number

Local Health Department	Telephone Number – Daytime	Telephone Number – After hours

Put the **current date** in the space provided for the next 14 days. Take your temperature twice a day; once in the morning (a.m.) and once in the evening (p.m.), circle **Yes** or **No** if you have fever or are feverish, then write your temperature in the space.

Circle **Yes** or **No** - If you have a cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath for each day.

Do not leave any spaces blank. If you have a fever or any symptom, immediately call your doctor.

Date (month/day) (Days 1-14)	Feverish?	Temperature Morning (a.m.)	Temperature Evening (p.m.)	Cough	Sore Throat	Shortness of Breath	Other Symptoms
1	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
2	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
3	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
4	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
5	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
6	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
7	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
8	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
9	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
10	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
11	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
12	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
13	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	
14	Yes / No	°C / °F	°C / °F	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	