

GPS HEALTH OFFICES

UPDATES AND COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

NURSING OFFICE PROCEDURE CHANGES

The nurse's office will be used to continue to take care of children. Each building will have a separate room/area this year for our students who become ill at school. We will have social distancing in both rooms and continued cleaning as directed. The local health department flyers list the symptoms that require us to send students home.

To help diminish the number of students entering the nurse's offices, **Gretna Public Schools will no longer be issuing Tylenol, ibuprofen, or cough drops.** If your child needs Tylenol or ibuprofen at school, we will require a parent and/or Dr. note in order to give this medicine.

SCREENING/TESTING FOR COVID-19

It is more important than ever that your child comes to school healthy. You know your child better than anyone. We are asking you to do a temperature check every morning and ask your child a few health-related questions. Your child cannot come to school if his/her temperature is above 100.4.

In addition to your screening at home, students and staff will be temperature screened by a thermal scanner as they enter the school buildings.

Staff will be instructed to screen themselves daily before coming to school.

Please review the listing of symptoms that require your child to stay home. If positive for any of these symptoms, contacting your Health Care Provider by phone is recommended.

SYMPTOMS QUESTIONS FOR SCREENING STUDENTS AND STAFF

Does the student or staff member have a fever of 100.4 or above and/or one or more of the following symptoms: a new cough, new onset of shortness of breath, or new loss of taste or smell?

OR

Does the student have at least one symptom and answers yes to: Is there someone in your household who is currently in quarantine or currently positive for COVID-19?

If you answered yes to either of the above, please do the following:

1. Student and/or staff should be immediately isolated in the designated area and sent home as soon as possible.
2. Require the symptomatic person to wear a cloth or surgical mask while waiting, if tolerable.

IF YOUR STUDENT DOES HAVE SYMPTOMS - NEXT STEPS

Call 911 with the following symptoms:

- Constant pain and pressure
- Severe difficulty breathing
- Severe shortness of breath
- Severe constant dizziness or lightheadedness
- Slurred Speech
- Extreme difficulty waking up

Call your child's health care provider to ask about your child's symptoms and if testing is necessary

- [Children's Hospital information](#) to get testing for your child
- Children's Hospital 8200 Dodge St. Omaha is only testing children with severe symptoms
- Children's Hospital [Web Site](#) for more information
- Call Children's **COVID-19 helpline 402-955-3200** for assistance
- CHI [has a link](#) to their COVID-19 helpline
- One World Community Health Center is only doing testing on their current patients. 4910 S. 30th Street Omaha, NE. 68107 Phone (402)734-4110
- Charles Drew Health Center 2915 Grant St. Omaha, NE 68111 Phone 402-451-3553
- For test locations visit www.testnebraska.com

SCREENING QUESTIONS FOR STAFF AND DELIVERY PERSONNEL

1. Have you or anyone in your household had a fever (100.4 or greater), cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, muscle pain, sore throat, headaches, chills, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or a new loss of smell/taste in the last 3 days?
2. Is anyone in your household waiting for a COVID-19 test result?
3. Have you or anyone in your household been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

Staff: If you answer yes to any of these questions, please call your doctor's office.

Visitors: If you answer yes to any of these questions, please do not come inside the building.

SCHOOL RESPONSE TO EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL OR SELF-QUARANTINE

As soon as the school becomes aware of a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19, the school will be in contact with local health officials. The school and health officials will work together to determine possible students and staff who may have been directly exposed to the positive case in question. [The questions can be found here.](#)

Based on the recommendations from the health officials, the school will inform identified members and parents of possible exposure and advise them of needed actions due to the exposure. Notification of students in the class, school, team, and or district will be based on the severity of the exposure and directive of health officials.

Finally, the custodial staff will be informed of any confirmed positive cases so that all desks, lockers, and workspaces of the person are thoroughly disinfected. If the school is not open when notification occurs, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting and instead will block off the area so that others do not have contact. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur as soon as possible.

EXCLUSION AND RETURN

Given the nature of the pandemic, school personnel may be making additional medical inquiries of students -more than they otherwise would. Please note that federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made, but given the nature of the pandemic more leeway has been given by federal agencies in this circumstance.

If a parent/guardian informs the school that a student is ill, the school may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 and provide instruction based on the current state and local health directives for the student's school attendance. The student's attendance will be coded accordingly.

**Any student who is excluded from school due to exclusion, quarantine, or isolation will be coded as such for attendance.

EXPANDED EXCLUSION CRITERIA

The school may expand student school health exclusion criteria based on current state and local guidelines to include symptoms of COVID-19 in order to prevent the spread in the school community.

- If any student is displaying COVID-19 symptoms in the school setting, he/she will be directed to the school health office for screening and may be excluded based on the screening outcome if there is reason to believe that the person may be ill with COVID-19 or suspected of having been in close contact with a person having COVID-19.
- Students will be directed to an isolation area away from other students until the parent/guardian picks up the student.
- Health office staff will notify parents/guardians.
- Parents/guardians will be directed to contact their healthcare provider and/or obtain appropriate COVID-19 testing.
- School nurses will initiate notification of county health officials and school administration for any positive cases of COVID-19.
- Gretna Public Schools follows recommendations made by the Sarpy/Cass Health Department.
- EMS will be called if symptoms are assessed/observed to be urgent in nature.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER EXCLUSION

Once a student is excluded from the school environment, he/she may return based on the current recommendations of the Sarpy/Cass Health Department. Currently, those guidelines [can be found here](#).

TESTED FOR COVID-19 (WITH SYMPTOMS)

Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 and are found to be **positive** may return to school if the following three conditions are met:

- Ten (10) calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared; **AND**
- They have not had a fever for at least 24 hours (no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); **AND**
- other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)

Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 and are found to be **negative** may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- They no longer have a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers); **AND**
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved) **AND**
- The school has medical documentation of the negative result.

TESTED FOR COVID-19 (WITH NO SYMPTOMS)

Persons who have **not had symptoms but test positive** for COVID- 19 may return to school when the following three conditions are met:

- Ten (10) calendar days have passed since the positive test was done; **AND**
- They have not had a fever for at least 24 hours (no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers); **AND**
- Any symptoms that develop have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved).

UNTESTED FOR COVID-19 (WITH SYMPTOMS)

Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three conditions are met:

- Ten (10) calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared: **AND**
- They have not had a fever for at least 24 hours (no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers): **AND**
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved).

OR

Students may also return if they are approved to do so in writing by the student's health care provider.

SIBLINGS OR OTHER STUDENTS IN THE HOUSEHOLD

If a student is excluded from school due to **ONE** of these five COVID-19 symptoms: fever 100.4 or higher, new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste, or new loss of smell, siblings and/or other students or staff members living in the same household **NO LONGER NEED** to be excluded from school or asked to self-quarantine if they are symptom free. If the COVID-19 symptom student is confirmed positive, then all siblings and family

members will be asked to be quarantined for 10 days from the last contact with the positive student.

[Options to Discontinue Quarantine LINK](#)

[How to Quarantine LINK](#)

Someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 should be immediately isolated in the home away from the rest of the members in the household. Students who live with this person should begin a quarantine period of 10 days due to close contact. If the person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 cannot isolate themselves in the home or if another member of the household gets sick with COVID-19 during this time, the student will need to restart his / her quarantine from the last day he/ she had close contact with the additional positive case.

Students (and staff) who return to school or activities prior to the completion of a 14-day quarantine, **MUST** do the following for the duration of the original 14-Day quarantine period.

1. **Must continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms AND**
2. **Must be masked at school, at all times. This includes wearing a mask during recess, PE et. and all activity practice and games AND**
3. **Must be isolated at lunch. Students may be asked to eat in their school's designated quarantine lunch area if they are not able to social distance at least 6' away from other students.**

SELF-QUARANTINE

If a student or employee has recently traveled internationally, the school may, per directed health measure, exclude the student or employee and recommend that they self-quarantine for 10 days.

If a student or employee has recently had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19, the school may exclude the student or employee and recommend that they self-quarantine for 10 calendar days **after last contact** with the person who has COVID-19.

LINKS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

[COVID-19 Fact Sheet](#)

[E.A.Q from CDC regarding COVID-19](#)

[Coping with Stress and Anxiety during a pandemic from CDC](#)

[Options to Discontinue Quarantine Frequently Asked Questions](#)

