

COVID 19 Policy

The symptom list for COVID 19 is long and can mimic other illnesses.

1. **Please help us by monitoring your child's symptoms on a daily basis.**
2. For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma or seasonal allergies, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.
3. Please keep your child home if they exhibit any of the following:
 - Fever (greater than 100.4)
 - General malaise
 - Chills
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Diarrhea/gastrointestinal upset
 - Persistent cough
 - Runny Nose
 - Moderate/severe seasonal allergy symptoms
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Moderate to severe headache
 - Vomiting

If you have any of the above symptoms you need a negative COVID test (PCR) or a doctor's note with a specific alternative diagnosis (Upper respiratory infection is not specific; examples: ear infection, strep throat, pneumonia).

When AAA is informed of a confirmed or probable cause of COVID-19 or identifies a person with COVID-19 illness, the person will be isolated. If the person is at the school, they must leave the school as soon as possible. AAA works with its delegating nurse and the Howard County Department of Health to assist in contact tracing and any applicable and appropriate actions.

For confirmed/probable cases of COVID-19 in a classroom, that classroom's families will be informed via email/text and phone.

- As per the MD Health Department contact tracing guidelines, "students or their family members who are COVID-10 positive will need to be at home for a minimum of 10 days with improving symptoms AND 24-hours fever free without fever reducers after the first day of illness/symptoms.
- **Day "zero" is the day of onset of symptoms and Day 1 is the day after for purposes of counting out the 10 calendar days for isolation of ill persons.**
- Additionally, everyone who lives in the household (even if other family members are negative or/not showing coronavirus symptoms,) **may need to quarantine for additional time as required by the Department of Health contact tracing team.**
- **This is determined on a case-by-case basis.** If your child or anyone in your immediate family tests positive for COVID-19, you must inform the school.
- Students can return to school with a doctor's note after being ill, and with negative PCR test after having COVID-19.

Isolation is termed for an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19 and is staying home and away from others.

- Asymptomatic persons should still isolate to reduce the risk of exposure and potential transmission.
- The current alignment of the CDC, MD Depts of Heath, and the HC Health Department, the required isolation period is **10 days**.

Quarantine is termed for an individual who has been exposed to COVID-19 and must stay home and self-monitor for symptoms. The current alignment of the CDC, MD Depts of Heath, and the HC Health Department, the required isolation period is **10 days** if:

- No symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring; and
- Daily symptom monitoring continues through day 14; and
- Quarantined individuals adhere to mitigation strategies, including but not limited to: using a face covering, physical distancing, and self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 through Day 14; and
- Quarantined individuals immediately isolate and contact their health care provider if symptoms develop to determine whether they need to be tested.

Fully vaccinated persons who have come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days following the date of their last exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. If they remain asymptomatic and can correctly and consistently wear a mask, they do not need to be excluded from school or child care unless they test positive.