



Return to Learn

Protocols following critical, major or minor symptoms

When can staff, students return to work and school in PSD following a positive COVID-19 symptom screen?

Note: This guidance is NOT intended for cases or close contacts of COVID-19. A confirmed COVID-19 case or close contact should follow public health isolation or quarantine instructions for return to school/work.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment recently released new guidance for K-12 schools to guide response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A group of nurses and PSD staff evaluated the new guidance, which is now in effect and outlines when staff and students can return to work and school. Please note that PSD's adopted guidance has been reviewed by the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and is in some ways stricter than the state's guidelines. As a reminder: PSD staff and students are required to wear a mask on school grounds.

Critical Symptom: Loss of taste or smell



Critical Symptom Response:

Follow home isolation for **10 days** following symptom onset AND be **24 hours** fever free without use of fever-reducing meds before returning to school. COVID-19 test recommended.

Major Symptoms:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4° F or greater | <ul style="list-style-type: none">New or worsening cough | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing |
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Major Symptom Response:

- If symptoms resolve within 24 hours of onset and stay resolved an additional 24 hours, return to school. (48 hours total)
- If symptoms DO NOT resolve within 24 hours, either:
 - Follow home isolation for 10 days following symptom onset AND 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds before returning to school.
 - Get a polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, COVID-19 test. If test is negative, return to school once symptom-free for 24 hours. If positive, follow home isolation for 10 days following symptom onset AND 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds before returning to school.

Minor Symptoms:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sore throat• Runny nose or congestion• Muscle or body aches | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headache• Fatigue | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nausea, vomiting• Diarrhea |
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Minor Symptom Response:

1. If symptoms resolve within 24 hours of onset and stay resolved an additional 24 hours, return to school. (48 hours total)
2. If symptoms resolve within 48 hours of onset and stay resolved an additional 24 hours, return to school. (72 hours total)
3. If symptoms DO NOT resolve within 48 hours, either:
 - Follow home isolation for 10 days following symptom onset AND 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds before returning to school.
 - Get a polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, COVID-19 test. If test is negative, return to school once symptom-free for 24 hours. If positive, follow home isolation for 10 days following symptom onset AND 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds before returning to school.

The school nurse or PSD health staff will determine when a student is able to return to school.

School administrators, department leaders, or supervisors will communicate with staff about their return to work.

*Sources: Larimer County Department of Health and Environment (LCDHE), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
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