

Sending sick kids home during COVID-19: What are the rules for returning to school?

In addition to symptoms of COVID-19, students will end up in the Nurse's Office feeling unwell for all of the same reasons they have in previous years. What are the rules for kids returning to school? When a child goes to the Nurse's Office feeling unwell...

1. The nurse will assess the student for possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
2. If the student is not showing any of those signs and symptoms, the student will be sent home and can return to school after 24 hours of being symptom-free.
3. If a student is showing possible signs or symptoms of COVID-19, the student will be sent home and the parents will be instructed to contact their healthcare provider or the Nurse Advice Line for follow-up instructions.
4. The child can return to school after **24 hours** of being symptom-free (without fever reducing medications) **with a note from the healthcare provider** that the child's symptoms are not indicative of COVID-19.
5. If the child is **not seen by a healthcare provider**, the child can return to school **72 hours** after being symptom-free (without fever reducing medications).
6. Siblings of students who are sent home with possible signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will also be sent home. They will be permitted to return to school when the symptom-presenting student is cleared to return or with a note from their healthcare provider.

Possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19

- NEW uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for individuals with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- NEW onset of severe headache, especially with fever
- Fever (temperature of 100.4 or higher OR IAW host nation policy)
- Signs of fever (chills, feeling very warm, flushed appearance/sweating)
- Sore Throat
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- Sudden change in taste or smell