

October 2, 2020

Dear Parents,

As we near the cold and flu season we wanted to make our sick policy for students and staff more specific in the hopes that it will help mitigate any positive COVID-19 cases in our school.

According to DHS, symptoms of COVID-19 in children are often nonspecific and the illness may mimic a number of other childhood viral infections. Most commonly COVID-19 symptoms for children are a cough and fever. Additionally children are less likely than adults to present with a fever and more likely to have mild infections. Because of this we will be following the DHS advice of “using a liberal approach when determining whether to send a child home due to illness.”

We will also follow DHS guidance that states, if in the last 24 hours your child has experienced symptoms listed below, they should be tested for COVID-19 and should NOT be at school for in person instruction:

- Either cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or new loss of smell or taste OR
- At least two of the following symptoms:
  - Fever (measured or subjective, or chills or rigors)
  - Myalgia
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea

Children with these symptoms should be tested for COVID-19 and confirmed negative or remain in home isolation for 10 days.

We appreciate you helping us keep our students and staff safe and keep our school open.

Thank you,

Dianne Metz