

# SYMPTOM-BASED EXCLUSION CHART



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
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Authority

## Symptom of illness:

**HEADACHE WITH STIFF NECK AND FEVER:** this combination of symptoms may indicate a serious condition. Advise student's guardian to seek medical attention.

**DIARRHEA**

**VOMITING**

**SKIN RASH OR OPEN SORES:** rash increasing in size OR new unexplained sores or wounds OR draining rash, sores, or wounds cannot be completely covered with a bandage and clothing\*\*

**RED EYES WITH EYE DISCHARGE:** unexplained redness of eye(s) AND colored drainage from the eye(s)

**JAUNDICE:** yellowing of the eyes or skin that is new or uncharacteristic

**FEVER\*:** temperature of 100.4°F or greater

**NEW COUGH\***

**DIFFICULTY BREATHING OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH\*:** this symptom is likely to require immediate medical attention.

**NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR LOSS OF SMELL\***

Offer  
mask,  
isolate,  
and send  
home

Offer  
COVID-19  
test and  
mask,  
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## MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER:

**HEADACHE WITH STIFF NECK AND FEVER:**  
fever-free for 24 hours AND symptoms resolve.

**DIARRHEA OR VOMITING:** symptom-free for 48 hours OR  
cleared by healthcare provider.

**SKIN RASH OR OPEN SORES:** rash is gone OR until sores are dry  
or can be completely covered OR cleared by healthcare provider.

**RED EYES WITH COLORED DRAINAGE:**  
symptoms resolve OR cleared by healthcare provider

**JAUNDICE:** cleared by healthcare provider

**FEVER\*:** fever-free for 24 hours

**NEW COUGH OR DIFFICULTY BREATHING OR  
SHORTNESS OF BREATH OR NEW LOSS OF TASTE  
OR LOSS OF SMELL\*:** symptoms improving for 24 hours

Negative  
Test

Positive Test  
OR No Test

**MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER:**  
fever-free for 24 hours AND symptoms improving  
for 24 hours.

**MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER:**  
Isolating at home for a minimum of 5 days AND  
Following applicable symptom-based guidance.  
▪ Recommend masking for 5 additional days

**Ill with two or more primary COVID-19 symptoms** (Fever, new cough illness, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath and new loss of taste or smell\*)

**Tests positive for COVID-19 with or without symptoms**

## Important Definitions

**EXCLUSION** means keeping a student with certain contagious diseases or symptoms out of school to prevent possible disease spread.

**FEVER FREE** means a temperature less than 100.4°F without taking fever reducing medicine (e.g., any medicine that contains ibuprofen or acetaminophen).

**ISOLATION** means staying at home and away from other people as much as possible to reduce the spread of disease. For COVID-19 individuals are recommended to mask for 5 additional days after the end of their 5-day isolation period. An individual should continue isolation if symptoms are not improving by day 5.

See [Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools](#) for recommendations on disease-specific guidelines.

\* Notes primary COVID-19 symptom

\*\* Some children have chronic non-infectious skin conditions, e.g., eczema; they need not be excluded for apparent exacerbations of these conditions.