

Bishop Fenwick Sick Day Guidelines

We know that it is not one single action but a combination of actions that will help mitigate this virus. Together we can partner to support our students in navigating this “new normal”. If your child is experiencing any of the following symptoms, please keep your child home and report his/her absence at 978-587-8300.

- Fever (defined as 100 degrees or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Nasal congestion (not due to other known causes, such as allergies), *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Headache, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Muscle aches or body aches
- New loss of taste of smell

Please note that some of the above symptoms of COVID-19 are the same as the flu or a bad cold; please do not assume it is another condition. When in doubt, keep your student home.

If a student is experiencing any of the above symptoms, they will need to be tested for COVID-19 per CDC guidelines.

Instituting CDC sick day guidelines will be considered on a case by case basis, taking into account student chronic health concerns and baseline health information.

Decisions to isolate and quarantine (per CDC recommendations), will be recommended after consultation with the parent, primary care provider of the student, and the local department of public health.

Students Testing Positive for COVID-19

If your student tests positive for COVID-19 they will need to stay home and **isolate** (per CDC guidelines) until **all** of the following have happened:

1. At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms started
2. They have not had a fever (100 or greater) in at least 72 hours without using medication to lower fever
3. Their symptoms have improved
4. They have received clearance from a public health authority contact tracer (DPH or Community Tracing Collaborative)

Your student's primary care provider plays a key role in managing symptoms of COVID-19. It is imperative that you share all concerns and/or changes regarding your student's health with his/her primary care provider immediately.

If your student tests positive for COVID-19 but does not show symptoms, he/she will need to isolate (per CDC guidelines) and stay home for 10 days following the day they were tested.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 will not be able to participate in in-person learning at school until the above criteria have been met. Remote learning will be available for all students. If your child is feeling well enough, he/she may participate in class remotely during this time.

COVID-19 symptoms vary in severity from person to person and accommodations will be made for students who are unable to complete their academic work, as needed.

All student health information is confidential, in compliance with HIPPA regulations.

Any necessary contact tracing will be conducted under supervision of the Department of Public Health.

Recommendations for COVID-19 are fluid as we learn more daily about this virus. I have included the link for further access to the most current information. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

Students Testing Negative for COVID-19

If your student becomes sick but tests negative for COVID-19 **they should stay home until they are feeling better and have not had fever for 24 hours without using any medication to reduce fever.** We ask that you follow the Sick Day Guidelines listed below:

Sick Day Guidelines for students who have tested negative for COVID-19:

Please keep your student home from school:

- When **antibiotics are prescribed**; students may return to school after 24 hours of treatment on an antibiotic as long as they do not have fever
- If your student **is vomiting**; they may return to school when they have been symptom free for 24 hours and are tolerating a normal diet

- If your student **is experiencing diarrhea**; they may return to school when they have been symptom free for 24 hours and are tolerating a normal diet
- If your student is experiencing **severe cold symptoms**
- If your student has an **undiagnosed rash**
- If your student is diagnosed with an illness other than COVID-19 such as the flu or strep throat you will need to follow the doctor's guidelines for exclusion requirements specific to the diagnosed illness.

**** A note from your child's physician will be necessary for your child to return to school****

If Your Child Becomes Sick During the School Day:

- Students experiencing symptoms of illness will be referred to the nurse's office for further assessment
- If it is determined that your student's symptoms warrant dismissal from school, he/she will wait for dismissal by a parent in our Monitored Medical Waiting Room
- The Medical Waiting Room meets all CDC and Department of Public Health requirements with regards to PPE and physical distancing
- As we navigate this "new norm" we ask for your patience as we may need to send your student home for symptoms that have not warranted dismissal in the past
- All decisions for dismissal will be made based on the CDC guidelines and recommendations from the Local Department of Public Health. We make these decisions with the health, safety and wellbeing of your student and our Fenwick community in mind

- Please make sure that your student's emergency contact information is up to date and contains a contact that can be easily reached during the school day in the case that dismissal is needed

Our partnership in supporting your student's health will be the key to a successful year. Please do not hesitate to contact the school nurse, Mrs. Faragi RN, BSN, with any questions or concerns. Mrs. Faragi can be reached by email at jmf@fenwick.org or by phone at 978-587-8307. Your child's health, safety and wellbeing are our priority.