

**Red Clay Consolidated School District
Returning to School Health Guidelines
Student & Staff Considerations**

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Purpose: The health guidelines specifically focus on the school nurse health office and are intended to provide guidance for each school regarding the health and wellness of both students and staff upon the return to school during Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for the 2020-2021 school year. Additional reference to the district's <<INSERT NAME of DOC and Link>> and the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) [Return to School](#) guidance will be key in the delivery of nursing services in the school. These guidelines will be updated to address the changes in policy and guidance as necessary.

These written guidelines include but are not limited to the following components:

- 1) School Nurse Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- 2) Non-medical Staff Guidance for Use of PPE
- 3) School Nurse Office Equipment
- 4) Symptom Monitoring/Exclusion Criteria
- 5) Health Room Visits/Flow
- 6) Communicable Disease Monitoring
- 7) School Requirements
- 8) Communication & Education for Students and Staff
- 9) Appendices
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School Nurse PPE

Any interaction with a student suspected of COVID-19 will require the use of PPE including FDA approved surgical face mask, gloves, gown and goggles or face shield.

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Recommendations:

- 1) School nurse attire
 - a) Scrub top, bottoms and lab coat or cloth washable (scrub jacket or smock) are strongly recommended for daily duties including identifying one pair of shoes that are designated for work.
 - b) Extra attire is encouraged in case clothing becomes soiled.
- 2) Gloves
 - a) Each school nurse will determine the number of gloves to be ordered using student and staff office visit data from the school year 2019-2020.
 - b) School nurses should use non-sterile nitrile disposable gloves in the health room and during each individual student/staff hands on assessment.
 - c) Wearing gloves is not a substitute for hand washing with soap and running water.
 - d) Washing hands between individuals and donning a new pair of gloves during each individual student/staff hands on assessment to decrease exposure to bodily fluids and to prevent pathogen transmission.
- 3) Face Masks
 - a) FDA approved surgical face masks are to be used by the school nurse in the health room using at least 1 mask/day unless soiled, wet, damaged, or difficult to breathe through.
 - b) Each school nurse will order the number of face masks that equals half of the student body (e.g., if 100 students then 50 masks need to be ordered).
 - c) Face masks will be worn during all student/staff interactions. N95 surgical face masks (or N95 respirators) will be provided by the district and are to be used during treatments that elicit aerosolized secretions such as suctioning or nebulized medication administration or when assessing a student/staff member with symptoms consistent with COVID) per guidelines. Best practices prior to the COVID-19 pandemic was for healthcare workers to use N95 or greater protection respirators when in contact with patients who may spread infectious diseases via airborne secretions. If respirator is determined not essential, or is unavailable due to shortage, wear facemask and face shield (NASN, 2020). Proper fitting by an approved respiratory program is preferred and recommended by NASN. [NASN PPE](#)
- 4) Eye Protection
 - a) Each school nurse will need to have one reusable pair of protective eye wear such as reusable goggles or face shield with a backup device located in the disaster bag.
- 5) Gowns (disposable)
 - a) Each school nurse will need to order 25-50 protective gowns that are resistant or impermeable to fluids.
 - b) Protective gowns will need to be worn during procedures that may illicit aerosolized secretions such as suctioning and nebulized medications and/or during procedures where there is a potential exposure of being splashed or sprayed with respiratory secretions Gowns need to be changed between potentially infectious cases to prevent cross contamination.

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- c) Note: When ordering supplies, consideration should be given to the unique needs of students/staff within each school building.

Non-medical Staff Guidance for Use of PPE

Recommendations:

- 1) Facemask or Face covering
 - a) Need to be worn by all non-medical staff in accordance with Delaware Health and Safety directives.
 - i) Face mask or face covering shall be worn during all activities when social/physical distancing cannot be safely maintained. In accordance with the Delaware Health and Safety Directives.
 - b) Additional guidance is available at the following:
 - [DDOE Returning to School \(refer to Health and Safety Directives\)](#)
 - [DPH Guidance for Face Coverings - Delaware's Coronavirus Official Website](#)
- 1) Face shields
 - a) The use of face shields should be considered when working with students with special healthcare needs and when there is a potential exposure of being splashed or sprayed with respiratory secretions during certain activities such as feeding.
 - b) A face shield may be used in lieu of a mask when working with students who may need to visualize the face/mouth of the educator to aid in their learning **only** if physical distancing is able to be maintained or additional physical barriers are in place.
- 3) Gloves
 - a) Should be worn by staff members when participating in activities that have a risk for exposure to body fluids. This includes but is not limited to oral and nasal secretions (saliva and mucus), blood, urine, feces, sweat, tears, vomit and breast milk. Note: Per the CDC, it is not yet known whether other non-respiratory body fluids from an infected person can contain viable, infectious SARS-COV-2 the virus responsible for COVID-19.
- 4) Gowns (disposable)
 - c) Need to be worn when working with students who have special health care needs when there is a potential of being splashed or sprayed with respiratory secretions during certain activities such as feeding.
- 5) Hand Hygiene
 - c) Staff must have access to 60-70% alcohol-based hand rub (hand sanitizer) and/or soap and water in accordance with State of Delaware Department of Health guidelines. [DDOE Returning to School](#)
- 6) Additional Considerations
 - a) If there is potential of being splashed or sprayed by bodily fluids while performing daily duties, adherence to standard precautions is required. Collaboration with school administration and the school nurse is recommended to determine if additional PPE is

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required. This may include use of a face mask, face shield/eye protection, disposable gloves, and a gown.

- b) Specific examples and guidance for handling potential high-risk body fluid exposures and the proper use of PPE can be discussed with the school nurse, and also can be found in Communication & Education for Staff.

School Nurse Office Equipment

- 1) Thermometers
 - a) FDA approved contactless thermometers must be used for taking temperature readings.
 - b) Thermometers will be provided to each school nurse office by the district.
- 2) Pulse oximeter
 - a) There must be at least two working pulse oximeters in each school nurse office.
- 3) Hand Hygiene
 - a) Each school nurse's office should have an adequate supply of 60-70% alcohol-based hand rub (hand sanitizer) and soap and running water.
- 4) School Nurse Office Cleaning
 - a) Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed in collaboration with building administration and custodial staff.
FDA approved cleaning supplies will be provided by the Red Clay Consolidated School District.

Symptom Monitoring/Exclusion Criteria

Health Assessment [Student Self Health Assessment](#)

Symptoms

Students and staff will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit (1) or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on current DPH guidelines.

Symptoms may include:

- 1) Fever of 100.4 degrees or greater
- 2) Cough
- 3) Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- 4) Chills
- 5) Muscle pain
- 6) Headache
- 7) Sore throat
- 8) New loss of taste and/or smell
- 9) Fatigue

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- 10) Congestion or runny nose
- 11) Nausea or vomiting
- 12) Diarrhea
- 13) Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) above plus rash, bloodshot eyes, neck pain and abdominal pain

Refer to link [COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

COVID-19 Risk Assessment Tool

Refer to the Delaware Department of Education's Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Screening Assessment for Use by the School Nurse [COVID-19 Risk Assessment For School Nurse Use Only](#)

Handling Suspected, Presumptive or Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Cases

Should a student/staff member exhibit any of the symptoms noted above, the following protocol will be followed:

Protocol

- 1) Each school must have a dedicated room or adjacent well-ventilated space with a door separate from the nurse's office that allows symptomatic individuals to be separated/isolated by 6 or more feet while waiting to be evaluated or for immediate dismissal.
 - a) Only essential staff and students assigned to the designated isolation space may enter.
 - b) Any person who enters the designated isolation space will be required to sign in so that there is a record of persons who entered the room. See Isolation Sign-In Sheet [Appendix A](#)
 - c) The designated isolation space will be cleaned and disinfected between students and several times throughout the day.
 - d) Symptomatic individuals will remain under visual supervision by a staff member who is at least 6 feet away. The supervising adult will wear a surgical mask and have access to 60-70% alcohol-based hand rub or soap and running water.
 - e) Any school nurse or school staff member who provides direct care to a symptomatic person will need to wear proper PPE and perform hand hygiene after removing PPE.

An FDA approved surgical mask will be provided to students/staff exhibiting respiratory signs/symptoms. Note: Cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance or anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering due to developmental, medical or behavioral health needs.

Sending Home

Students with fever and/or symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19, will not be permitted to remain in school and must be picked up by a parent/guardian as soon as possible and no longer than one hour from initial contact.

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- 1) These students will not be permitted to board the dismissal bus.
- 2) Students who are ill will be walked out of the building by staff to parent/guardian (per district policy)
- 3) For students with transportation concerns refer to the district's transportation policy.
- 4) After notifying their administrator, staff will leave school immediately and seek advice and care from a healthcare provider.

Return to School

After a student/staff member has been excluded from the school environment he or she may return once the recommendations from the Delaware Department of Public Health have been satisfied and/or clearance from a healthcare provider has been obtained. See Appendix A. A system must be developed for identifying students who return to school without proper clearance in collaboration with administration and staff.

COVID-19 Return to School Criteria

School nurses will collaborate with Delaware Department of Public Health for guidance on safe return to school/work.

Other Circumstances

Siblings or students in the household of a student/staff member who has exhibited symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 will also be excluded from school. [Schools COVID FAQ](#)

Students diagnosed with illnesses not related to COVID-19 such as but not limited to strep throat and otitis media will be permitted to return to school after consultation with a healthcare provider along with a note from the healthcare provider stating that it is safe for the student to return to school. It is important to refer to the Red Clay Consolidated School District Administrative Memorandums for [Protocol for Various Health Conditions](#).

Health Office Requirements

- 1) Space
 - a) Refer to the State of Delaware School Construction Technical Assistance Manual. There needs to be at least one bathroom that conforms to American with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines that is accessible for use. [State of Delaware School Construction Technical Assistance Manual](#)
 - b) Required Areas/Rooms
 - i) Well Visit & Injury Area:
Separate areas in a clearly identified and labeled space maintaining appropriate distance of at least 6 feet that include both cots and chairs for the following:

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- (1) Well visits and injuries
- (2) Ill visits not deemed COVID-19
- (3) Routine procedures (e.g., catheterizations, blood glucose checks)

ii) Aerosol Procedure Area:

Separate identified space that includes ventilation to the outside per recommendations for aerosolized procedures (e.g., nebulizers, suctioning, and oxygen administration).
<https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/reopening-of-schools-and-universities>

iii) Isolation Room:

Separate identified space with a door that also has adequate ventilation per recommendations for COVID-19 presumptive cases that will serve as an isolation room for individuals being sent home from school or for further evaluation.

Note: This room can be referred to as “Going Home Early Room” or other age appropriate child friendly terminology as needed.

c) Refer to *Figure 2: Health Office Areas*

- 2) Water source outside of the bathroom is needed to allow for administration of medication, washing hands and providing first aid.
- 3) Additional Equipment
 - a) Refrigerator of adequate size for storing medications and snacks for students with special needs.
 - b) Rest area with one cot for every 300 students
 - c) Pedal controlled, covered waste receptacle with disposable liners
 - d) Biohazard waste container
 - e) Soap and running water
 - f) 60-70% alcohol-based hand rub/hand sanitizer

Health Office Flow

Considerations:

- 1) Student and staff visits and referrals to the health room should be considered as scheduled or staggered appointments unless emergency as determined by the nurse or school administrator.
- 2) Non-students and non-staff (e.g., parents, community agency members) are prohibited from the health office.
- 3) Collaboration with administration to establish a plan and communication system for when the health office reaches capacity.
- 4) Physical/social distancing must be followed based on DDOE [Returning to School](#) recommendations.

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- 5) Standardized education for staff, students and families regarding health office visits referrals and procedures need to be provided. Communication & Education for Staff section in Appendix A.
- 6) Identify and remove non-medical tasks out of the health office (e.g., safety pins, lost and found, and hand lotion).

First Aid Guidance for Staff

- 1) It is recommended that minor first aid situations be handled by the student and school staff using self-care to prevent health office congregation and possible cross exposure. This is not to imply delegation of nursing services. The goal is to keep healthy students and staff out of the health office to avoid potential exposure to illness.
- 2) It is required that procedures are established in which staff shall notify the school nurse prior to sending a student/staff member to the health office to prevent excess health office capacity.
- 3) Education regarding handling minor first aid and other situations shall be provided by the school nurse during scheduled professional development. Refer to the Communication & Education for Staff section in Appendix A.
- 4) First Aid Supplies
 - a) Gloves, Band-Aid's, and other items appropriate for the school setting should be provided by the school nurse for classroom and other setting use.
 - b) A "PPE Kit" for staff at high risk for exposure to respiratory droplets (e.g., behavioral interventionist, Crisis Teams members) shall be provided by the school nurse with education regarding potential exposure. Decisions for PPE use for high risk staff should be determined in consultation with the school nurse and school administration. It is recommended to place "PPE Kit" in strategic locations in the building to be used in emergency situations (e.g., with the AED, main office, cafeteria, unattached buildings).

Triaging in the Health Office

- 5) The school nurse shall determine which Health Office Area the student or staff member will be triaged, so that a treatment plan can be determined. See *Figure 1: Health Office Areas*

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Figure 1: Health Office Areas

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| <p>Well Visit & Injury Area</p> | <p><u>Reason for Visit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presents with routine procedure (e.g., diabetic care, tube feedings, catheterization, wound care, ostomy) or unscheduled visit for assessment (injury, medication administration/treatment) with non-COVID-19 symptoms. ● Adhere to physical distancing marked off areas. ● Wash/sanitize hands. ● Clean area after individual departs. |
| <p>Ill Visit Area</p> | <p><u>Reason for Visit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presents with unscheduled visit for assessment with non-COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., report of ear pain, toothache, etc.). ● Assess for signs and symptoms or exposure to COVID-19. If yes, send immediately to COVID-19 isolation area, follow isolation guidance. ● Adhere to Physical Distancing marked off area. ● Wash/sanitize hands. ● Clean area after individual departs. |
| <p>Aerosol Procedures Room</p> | <p><u>Reason for Visit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aerosol procedure (e.g., suctioning, tracheostomy care, nebulizers). ● Asses for signs and symptoms or exposure to COVID-19. If yes, send immediately to COVID-19 isolation area, follow isolation guidance. ● School nurses need to don necessary PPE including N95 masks. ● Adhere to physical distancing marked off areas. ● Wash/sanitize hands. ● Clean area after individual departs. |
| <p>Isolation Room COVID-19 (+) Symptoms</p> <p>Note: This room can be referred to as “Going Home Early Room” or other age appropriate child friendly terminology.</p> | <p><u>Reason for Visit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluation of COVID-19 symptoms. ● Place a surgical mask on the individual. ● School nurse needs to don necessary PPE. ● Refer to Isolation Guidance. ● Adhere to physical distancing. ● Wash/sanitize hands. ● Send home. ● Follow district Transportation Process for students with transportation concerns. ● Follow district Cases Contact Process (this includes notifying DOE and DPH.) ● Ventilate the room after individual (s) depart. ● Have room cleaned per district protocol after individual (s) depart. |

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Special Considerations

- 1) For students with asthma diagnosis, consider care coordination with health care provider to establish and suggest the following:
 - a) Asthma Action Plan or medication and treatment orders that reflect:
 - i) Administration of bronchodilator delivered by metered-dose inhaler (MDI) to be used whenever possible instead of nebulizer.
 - ii) Avoidance of using peak flow meters due to the potential of triggering a cough.
 - iii) Oxygen instead of nebulizer treatment or use inhalers with spacers first even in emergency situations to limit aerosolized exposure. (Allergy & Asthma network,2020)
 - b) Medical note from the health care provider for students with acute asthma attacks to attend school.
- 2) Contact the parent/guardian regarding use of MDI over nebulizer treatment and obtain mediation and supplies to treat the student during the school day.
- 3) If nebulizer treatment or peak flow measurement is necessary, the number of people in the room shall be limited to the student and school nurse administering the treatment.
- 4) After the nebulizer treatment or use of a peak flow meter, this room shall undergo cleaning and disinfection without the student present.
- 5) Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting. Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- 6) AHA for CPR & Mask Bagging

Vulnerable Populations and Individuals Who Are Considered at Increased Risk

- 1) Consider
 - a) Risk increases steadily with age.
 - b) Individuals at any age with certain underlying medical conditions.
 - c) Students who are medically complex. Those who have neurological, genetic, metabolic conditions, or congenital heart disease.
 - d) Refer to CDC guidelines.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html?CDC_AA
- 2) Staff with personal medical concerns refer to district Human Resources.
- 3) Individual Education Plans (IEP), 504 Plans and Individual Health Plans need to be updated to reflect current and any new medical needs.

Attendance

- 1) Refer to district's attendance policy.

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Communicable Disease Monitoring

District Process

- a) Exposure of Staff Policy [Schools COVID FAQ](#)
- b) Individual school nurses are the point person for confirmed COVID-19 (+) Cases or Related Inquires.
- c) Lead school nurse will perform daily absenteeism monitoring throughout the district to identify trends.
- d) Refer to Human Resource Communication chart for health information disclosures.

DPH Reporting

School nurses will contact the office of epidemiology once notified of a positive student/staff COVID-19 case. School nurses will work closely with school administration to determine exposure if any to students/staff and provide prompt notification while maintaining privacy to those individuals.

DOE Communications [DDOE Returning to School \(refer to Health and Safety Directives\)](#)

School Health Requirements

Health Requirements

- 1) All school health requirements including Physical Exams, Immunizations, Tuberculosis Test or Risk Assessment, will remain in effect for all newly entering and current students in accordance with the State of Delaware Administrative Code: Title 14, Section 800 Health and Safety. Refer to [Title 14: Education: 800 Health and Safety](#). In the governors 25th modification health screenings such as vision, hearing and postural screenings are to be suspended during the state of emergency.
<https://governor.delaware.gov/health-soe/twenty-fifth-state-of-emergency/>
- 2) The COVID-19 pandemic has created changes in the healthcare system, which may result in the student and family encountering barriers to accessing health care services for routine well-child visits and vaccine administration. It is the responsibility of the school nurse to support these students and families. The school nurse must provide guidance regarding school health entrance requirements and provide additional resources for access to care.

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Refer to DIAA for regulation: [DIAA Emergency Regulation 1010](#)

Communication & Education for Students and Staff

Education

- 1) The school nurse will provide education to students that is age and developmentally appropriate and to staff that is pertinent to the school population served.

Staff Education

- 1) Staff Education
- 2) Topic Areas
 - a) Health Office Referrals. Refer to Appendix A
 - b) Personal Protective Equipment (proper use)
 - c) Self-monitoring information
 - d) Privacy and Personal Identification Disclosures
 - e) Notification and exclusion of positive cases
 - f) Testing & Exposure
 - g) Communication System for Students Excluded
 - h) Staff responsibilities for cleaning

Student Education

- 1) Topic Areas
 - a) Seeking care from the school nurse
 - b) Self- monitoring (age appropriate)
 - c) Hand Hygiene
 - d) Respiratory Etiquette
 - e) Physical Distancing
 - f) Personal Protective Equipment

Family Education

- 1) Topic Areas (same as above from the parental lens)
 - a) Return to School After Sent Home
 - b) Care Coordination (students with MDI & scheduling medications)
 - c) What steps are being done in school to mitigate risks
 - d) Communicate any health concerns to the School Nurse not the Teacher or Administrator.
 - e) Stigma and racism

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Appendices

Appendix A

Isolation Area Sign-In Sheet

Communication & Education Resources

Health Office Referral Strategies

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