Protocol for a Student Experiencing Symptoms or Illness at School

Any student that is sick or has any symptoms need to stay at home. If a student becomes sick or starts experiencing symptoms while on campus, it is important for campus leadership to take the necessary precautions. This protocol was developed with Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and input from the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD).

SNHD's Response

The school would treat any illness as possibly infectious and follow your standard protocols (flu, chickenpox, pink eye, etc.). When symptoms are COVID-like and overlap, you may approach it in different ways. The best way is to send the student to their primary care physician. The physician will then determine what the symptoms are related to and may indicate a COVID-19 test. If the physician does not recommend a COVID-19 test, they should provide a diagnosis, direction, and note they do not require a COVID test. You will want to inform the parent so they don't have to go back to the physician to get the note or that it is incomplete. Your school could prepare a generalized notification for the parents and physicians for what is needed on the note. If the parents do not wish to go to a primary care physician, the next option would be to seek community testing for COVID. These two routes are the safest for your school and students.

Any symptoms, injuries, or conditions that are not COVID-like would not need a test or doctor’s note to return.

Feeling Minor Symptoms

It is important to recognize the difference between severe COVID-like symptoms and the minor ones. If a student is feeling minor symptoms like a runny nose or sneezing, there could be different sources for that (i.e., room is cold, cold weather, allergies, seasonal changes, etc.), and it might not be because of COVID. In these instances, CASLV should contact the student's family and make them aware of the situation. It is up to the parent if they want to take their student home.

Feeling Major COVID-Related Symptoms

Below is a list of the major COVID-related symptoms that would require action.

1 or more of the following symptoms
Fever of 100.4 or higher
Difficulty or trouble breathing
New loss of taste or smell

2 or more of the following symptoms
Fever
New or worsening headache
Nasal congestion or runny nose
Excessive coughing
Sore throat
Vomiting
Diarrhea
Excessive fatigue

If the student falls into either of these categories, the student would be sent home, and CASLV will recommend to the parent that the student needs to go to the doctor. CASLV will provide the parent with a note form for the doctor to complete. The doctor will recommend whether the student needs to take a COVID test or not. If the recommendation is to take a COVID test, the school will not allow re-entry for the student without:

1) Negative COVID-19 test result from or
2) If the parents decide not to have their child take the test, then the student must quarantine for 10 days and have no symptoms.

If the doctor recommends that no COVID test is necessary, then the doctor will provide a diagnosis and a timeline for when the student is allowed to return to school. However, if a student is still feeling symptoms at the time of the doctor’s recommended return date, then the student must remain at home until the student is symptom-free.

If a family decides not to take their student to the doctor, then the student will need to quarantine for two weeks and must have no symptoms OR provides a negative COVID test result. The student will not be allowed re-entry onto campus without these steps being taken.

**Siblings:** If there is a CASLV student is showing major symptoms on campus, any sibling enrolled in a CASLV campus will also be sent home and have to quarantine due to being a close contact. Out of an abundance of caution, the sibling will quarantine and only be allowed to return to school if:

- a doctor’s note gives an ‘okay’ to return for the student showing major symptoms, or
- the student showing major symptoms tests negative for Covid-19, or
- two weeks has passed and campus administration has approved their return date.

**Positive Covid-19 Test**

For any positive test, the diagnosed person must quarantine for ten days. If the positive person is a student or a teacher, then any persons in their classroom must quarantine for ten days. CASLV will conduct internal contact tracing to identify any possible affected persons, who then must quarantine for ten days. For anyone under quarantine and if after ten days has passed, the person can only return to campus after being symptom-free.

*IMPORTANT: CASLV will contact the SNHD for every positive case on its campuses. CASLV will listen to the guidance of the SNHD for next steps. Given the sensitive and everchanging nature of COVID-19, the direction from the SNHD for each case supersedes any CASLV protocol. The SNHD are public health experts.*