PROTOCOLS FOR RESPONDING TO CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED COVID-19

The intent of this document is to provide an overview of Country Day's approach to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases on campus.

With the science on COVID-19 evolving every day, we anticipate these protocols will be refined over the course of the coming weeks. As written, our protocols are based on guidance issued by Cincinnati Children's Hospital to community pediatric providers, which is based in turn on current CDC guidelines and informed by Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center partners and local public health authorities. In addition, we have been consulting regularly with a committee of healthcare experts in our community, including a specialist in epidemiology at UC Health and a public health specialist consulting with Cincinnati Public Schools.

All families are encouraged to monitor for symptoms daily.

The single most important thing to do if any symptoms[1] of COVID-19 are present is to STAY HOME. Our collective health relies, in part, on individual attention and responsibility. Note that some symptoms of COVID-19 are the same as the flu or a cold; please do not assume it is another condition. **WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY HOME**.

Definitions

The following definitions are used for this document:

Fever is defined as a temperature of ≥ 100 F (in accordance with Country Day's communicable disease policy).

Fever-free means a temperature < 100 F without fever-reducing medications.

Close contact is defined by the CDC as greater than 15 minutes within 6 feet of another person.

A person with COVID-19 is considered **infectious** from 48 hours before he/she first develops symptoms (or tests positive if asymptomatic) and until at least 10 days after diagnosis or positive test.

Confirmed COVID-19 is based on lab or clinically confirmed illness.

PUI (Patient under investigation) is someone with clinical symptoms consistent with COVID-19 awaiting testing.

Isolation is used to separate people infected with the virus from people who are not infected.

[1] COVID-19 symptoms range from asymptomatic to a combination of one or more of the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or small, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

Quarantine keeps someone who was or may have been exposed to the virus away from others in case they become symptomatic.

Patients who are in close contact with a case who is confirmed or under investigation are advised to quarantine at home for 14 days from the time of exposure to capture the most likely period they may develop symptoms to prevent further spread. Patients need to be quarantined if they were in close contact with a source 48 hours before symptom onset or a positive test.

In contrast, if a patient is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, home **isolation** is recommended until the individual is recovered. The individual is recovered when it has been ten days since the first symptom appeared or tested positive, is fever free for 24 hours and improving clinically.

Suspected case of COVID-19 on campus

If an individual presents with at least one COVID-19 symptom during the school day:

- The individual will be instructed to keep their face covering in place (unless there is a medical reason not to do so).
- The individual will visit with the school nurse for an evaluation of symptoms.
- In light of the risks presented by COVID-19 and in the interest of the health and safety of students and their families, and Country Day's faculty and staff, if the student presents with one or more symptoms of COVID-19 and there is no definitive, alternative cause immediately identifiable, the nurse will act with caution and treat as a suspected case of COVID-19.
- The individual will be placed in an isolated area, under the supervision of an adult wearing PPE and remaining six feet away, while waiting to leave campus.
    - An isolation room has been identified beside the nurse's existing office space.
- The parents will be notified and must collect their child <u>within 60 minutes</u>.
- Parents should consult with their primary healthcare provider for further diagnosis and testing.
- **Parents or caregivers and all school employees must immediately notify the school if they or if a member of their household is diagnosed with or is presumed to have COVID-19.**

  Please contact the school's nurse, Jackie Fiora, on 513-979-0250.

Assessment of illness in children

The flow charts on the following page represent a simplified guide to actions that will be advised by the nurse in the event of a child presenting with one or more symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

It must be remembered that, in a typical week at school, our school nurse deals with multiple instances of students with relatively minor ailments, including fever, headache, sore throat and coughs. We will continue to see these minor ailments, unrelated to COVID-19. The challenge in the current environment, is that each of these is also known to be a possible symptom of COVID-19.

As a result, the nurse will take a cautious approach to handling student illness, on a case by case basis, and referencing the clinical case definition of COVID-19, as set out by the CDC.

Where presenting symptoms meet the case definition—even though we recognize that the probability of COVID-19 is slight—she will advise that the student is collected from campus and consults with their healthcare provider for further diagnosis and testing. We strongly advise parents to seek testing.

As well as seeking guidance from your primary healthcare provider, both the Ohio Department of Health and the Hamilton County Health websites provide useful Covid-19 resources, including details of testing sites.

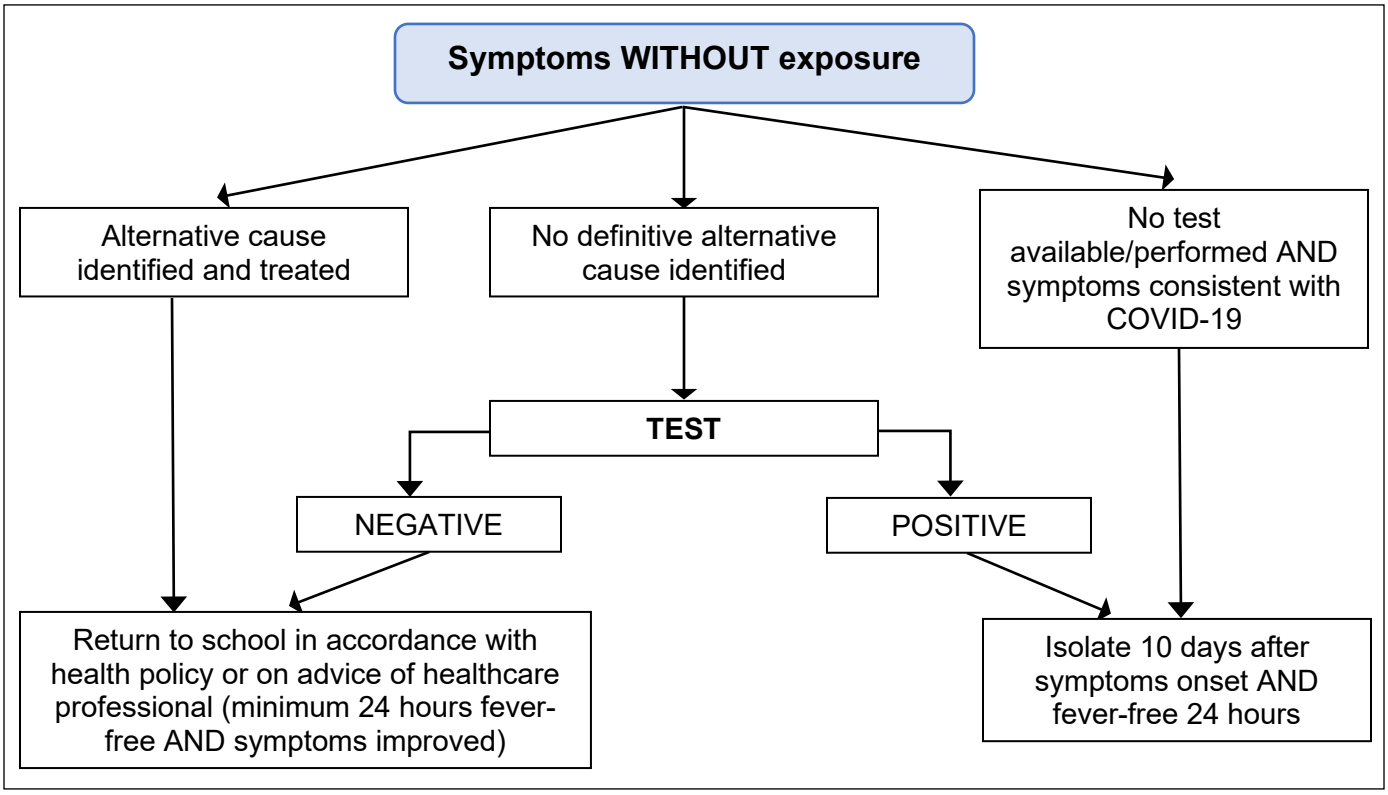
ODH's infographic of pop up sites: https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/get-tested-for-covid-19-infographic

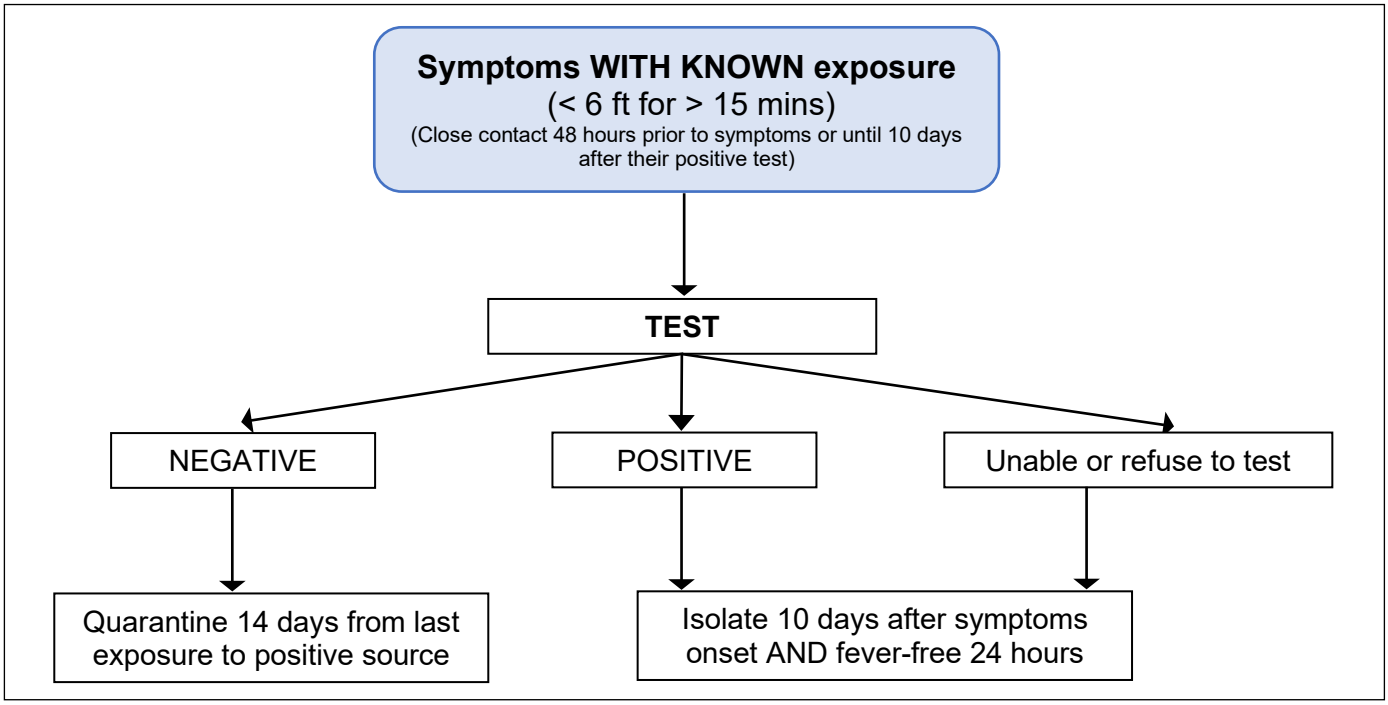
Hamilton's interactive map:
http://cagisportal.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8a2a1ff673af49f88a25ff88a261553c

If no definitive, alternative diagnosis is determined and a test is not available, that student will be required to remain off campus and quarantine or isolate, in accordance with the following charts.

Parents are asked to notify school as soon as test results are available.

Flowcharts to guide action in the event of child illness





A test-based strategy for ending isolation/quarantine is no longer recommended by the CDC in instances of known exposure and will not be deemed sufficient for a return to school.

Who will need to quarantine or isolate?

In the event of illness on campus, the school will work with Hamilton County Public Health to determine the appropriate action.

Quarantine and testing will be required for any students (or faculty/staff members) with known close contact exposure, based on the results of contact tracing procedures.

In Lower School, students will be maintained in cohort groups throughout the day. Students in the cohort of a **confirmed** source (determined by a positive test result or assessment of a healthcare provider) will be assumed to have been in **close contact** with the source (whether student or faculty/staff member), and quarantine protocols will be followed accordingly.

In Upper and Middle Schools, contract tracing procedures will identify close contacts based on assigned seating charts and scheduled or known activities in which the confirmed source participated. All close contacts will be required to quarantine.

The following table provides a guide to the approach that will be taken.

WHAT SYMPTOMS ARE EXHIBITED?	WHAT WAS THE EXPOSURE?	
	Known close contact exposure (Source < 6 ft for > 15 mins. Close contact 48 hrs prior to source's symptoms or up to 10 days after their positive test) e.g. sibling/household contact, child in same "cohort" or classroom	**No close contact exposure** (Source > 6 ft or < 15 mins) e.g. passed in hallway, child in different classroom, well distanced classmate with masking
Asymptomatic	• Test if possible (asymptomatic testing may vary based on testing supply) – If negative: quarantine 14 days from last exposure to positive source – If positive: isolate until at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms <u>and</u> 24 hours fever free – If unable or refuse test: quarantine 14 days. If symptoms develop in those 14 days, begin 10 days isolation.	• No testing needed unless symptoms develop. • Remain in (or return to) school.

WHAT SYMPTOMS ARE EXHIBITED?	WHAT WAS THE EXPOSURE?	
	Known close contact exposure (Source < 6 ft for > 15 mins. Close contact 48 hrs prior to source's symptoms or up to 10 days after their positive test) e.g. sibling/household contact, child in same "cohort" or classroom	**No close contact exposure** (Source > 6 ft or < 15 mins) e.g. passed in hallway, child in different classroom, well distanced classmate with masking
Symptoms of COVID-19	• Isolate patient • Consider concurrent alternative illness (e.g. strep, flu) • Test for COVID-19 – If negative: quarantine 14 days from last exposure to positive source – If positive: isolate until at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms and 24 hours fever free – If unable or refuse test: isolate until at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms and 24 hours fever free.	• Stay home from school and consult with your healthcare provider to consider alternative diagnoses (e.g. strep, flu) • If no alternative diagnosis, test for COVID-19 – If negative: return to school once recovered (24 hours fever free and symptoms improved, or on advice of healthcare professional) – If positive: isolate until at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms and 24 hours fever free – If no alternative diagnosis and unable or refuse to test, isolate 10 days from symptom onset and 24 hours fever free

Remote learning

To maintain continuity of instruction, students will engage in remote learning for the period of their quarantine.

In the case of faculty required to quarantine, they will instruct from home, until the 14-day quarantine period is concluded.

Cleaning protocols

Areas visited by a COVID-19 positive individual will be closed for cleaning and disinfecting, with repeated cleaning undertaken over a 24-hour period.

Communication and Required Notifications in the event of a Positive Case

A communication will be sent to families whose students have been in close contact with a positive case, notifying them that a positive case has been identified, without naming the individual student (or faculty/staff member), and that testing is recommended.

The nurse will inform the Ohio Department of Health of the suspected case and assist local health officials in conducting contact tracing for any students and families potentially exposed.

Multiple Confirmed Cases

In instances of multiple cases of confirmed COVID-19 in the school at one time, or if there is a series of single cases in a short time span, school leaders will work with the Ohio Department of Health and Hamilton County Public Health to determine if it is likely that there is transmission happening at the school.

Decisions about classroom or school quarantines will consider overall community and school-level spread. Steps agreed with the local health authorities might include, for example, shutting down the school for a short time (e.g. 1-3 days) for extensive cleaning, or closing campus for a longer duration (e.g. a 14-day quarantine period). Plans will be clearly communicated with families and students and their families should be ready to pivot quickly to a remote learning environment.

Additional Resources

CDC guidance for families on actions to take if sick: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html