

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

November 2020

Attention Parents and Guardians,

COVID-19 has been a challenge in our day to day lives. It has also presented a new normal for the children and staff in our schools. Symptoms that would have previously been considered minor are now the very symptoms that send staff and students home. These are the guidelines for return for Monroe County Schools, revised November 2020.

Return-to-School Guidelines for School

Students/faculty with COVID-19 symptoms and/or a positive test who were directed to care for themselves at home may end self-isolation when at least **24 hours** have passed since recovery, meaning:

- Fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications, **and**
- Improvement in symptoms (ie. Cough, shortness of breath) **and**
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms may discontinue self-isolation when at least 10 days have passed since the date of the test and have had no symptoms.

Persons suspected of having COVID-19 who have been tested and receive a negative test may discontinue isolation precautions provided they feel well. A negative test **does not** shorten the isolation period if there has been an exposure to a positive person.

Persons having COVID-like symptoms (fever, shortness of breath, new or worsening cough, congestion, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, body aches, chills, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, loss of taste/smell, headache) and not evaluated by a provider, must follow CDC guidelines and remain home for 14 days since symptoms first appeared. Seeing a medical provider for evaluation can shorten this duration with documentation of when to return.

****Subject to change with updated CDC guidance****

The local health department will be contacting and monitoring positive COVID-19 cases and known contacts. The most important message to take from this is the following: stay home while sick with any symptoms. Maintain social distancing, wear masks, and wash hands frequently. If a known exposure has happened (less than six feet for >15 minutes during the course of a day), stay home for 14 days from the last contact. Testing is recommended if symptoms develop. Testing too soon will not give an accurate result and does not change the isolation period. Reach out to your local school nurse for questions or clarification.

Thank you in helping to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our community.

Sincerely,

Mark Whiteside MD/MPH —

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