



## **Return to School Policy**

**A. Purpose.** The purpose of this Policy is to set the guidelines by which a student or staff member who has experienced any of the below may return to the School's premises. These guidelines are to be in compliance with applicable guidance at all times. If at anytime these guidelines do not comply with this guidance the School shall endeavor to update this Policy as soon as possible and may, in the meantime, refer students, legal guardians, and staff directly to the New Mexico Department of Health's, the New Mexico Public Education Department's website, or any other applicable governmental entity website for current guidance.

1. "Close Contact" with someone positive for COVID19/Coronavirus;
2. Testing positive for COVID19/Coronavirus;
3. Travel to a location outside New Mexico where the average daily cases of COVID19/Coronavirus are 8 or more per 100,000 and a Test Positivity of 5% or greater;
4. COVID19/Coronavirus-like symptoms; or
5. A chronic condition the symptoms of which are similar to COVID19/Coronavirus.

**B. "Close Contact" with someone positive for COVID19/Coronavirus.** The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) and New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) define "Close contact" as a situation where someone was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 3 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

If a staff member or student has been in close contact with COVID19/Coronavirus the staff member or student must quarantine at home for 14 days and be experiencing no symptoms after these 14 days in order to return to school premises.

**C. Positive Test for COVID19/Coronavirus.** Pursuant to DOH guidance if a staff member or student has tested positive for COVID19/Coronavirus he/she/they must remain isolated at home until they are no longer infectious.

1. If the individual is experiencing symptoms he/she/they must maintain isolation at home until all 3 of the following criteria are met:
  - a. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; and,
  - b. At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed with no fever without the use of fever reducing medication; and,

- c. Symptoms have improved.
2. If the individual is not experiencing symptoms he/she/they must maintain isolation at home until at least 10 days since the positive test has passed and the individual is not experiencing any symptoms.

**D. Travel Outside of New Mexico.** Per the current New Mexico Public Health Order travel to a location outside of New Mexico where the average daily cases are 8 or more per 100,000 and there is a test positivity of 5% or greater requires the traveler to quarantine for at least 14 days. And so if a student or staff member has traveled to such a location the individual must quarantine for a period of at least 14 days from the date of reentry into the State. A list of these states can be found at <https://cv.nmhealth.org/travel-recommendations/>.

**E. COVID19/Coronavirus-like Symptoms.** If the staff member or student is on school premises when he/she/they start to experience any symptom the staff member or student should inform the Head Administrator immediately via phone or email. A list of symptoms can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>. The following criteria must be met in order to return to the School's premises:

1. A negative test followed by 5 days without symptoms after being tested; or
2. 14 days of quarantine after which the staff member or student is without symptoms.

**F. COVID19/Coronavirus-like Symptoms from a Chronic Condition.**

1. Any student or staff member with chronic allergic rhinitis, chronic asthma, or other chronic, non-infectious respiratory symptoms, must provide a letter from their medical professional stating that the condition is chronic to the patient and does not indicate the presence of COVID19/Coronavirus.
2. If the student or staff member with the chronic condition experiences a change in those symptoms he/she/they must notify the Head Administrator and have a negative test for COVID19/Coronavirus and must have been quarantining while awaiting the results.

**G. Notification**

1. Any staff member experiencing any of the above situations must notify the Head Administrator immediately to arrange for an alternative work setting or for leave under the Family First Coronavirus Leave Act if also unable to telework.
2. If the individual is a student, the student or legal guardian should notify the Head Administrator immediately so that arrangements for the student to be kept current with his or her or their school work can be made.

**H. Penalties for Non-Compliance.**

1. Failure of a staff member to comply with this Policy may result in disciplinary action including termination or discharge.
2. Failure of a student or legal guardian to comply with this Policy may result in disciplinary action including suspension from school.