



Our Lady Star of the Sea School
PO Box 560, 90 Alexander Lane
Solomons, MD 20688
Phone (410) 326-3171

May 26, 2021

Dear OLSS Families,

As promised, I am reaching out to update you on the latest COVID guidelines for school settings from the Maryland Department of Health. Please review the attached decision aid carefully and feel free to reach out if you have questions.

It is very important that you note the updated symptoms list. We are happy to see the list is getting smaller, however it is very important to note the change that if any ONE of the below symptoms occurs, the person should be excluded until testing occurs unless a specific alternative diagnosis (strep, ear infection, etc.) OR pre-existing medical condition exists and is documented.

UPDATED COVID-19 symptoms are any ONE of the following:

- fever of 100.4 or higher
- sore throat
- cough,
- difficulty breathing
- diarrhea or vomiting
- new onset of severe headache (especially with fever)
- new loss of taste or smell

*For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

If you have any questions, please reach out for guidance. Thank you for your patience as we continue to get updates and guidance from our local Health Department.

Brandi Hutchins
OLSS School Nurse
Our Lady Star of the Sea School
410-326-3171
Fax: 410-326-9478
schoolnurse@olsss.org

Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms and Close Contacts in Child Care, Schools, and Youth Camps

For the purposes of this decision aid, **COVID-19 symptoms** are any ONE of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or new loss of taste or smell. For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

<p>Exclude all persons (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19 symptoms and recommend evaluation by a health care provider and testing for COVID-19¹</p>	<p>Recommendations for the person with symptoms who is NOT FULLY VACCINATED</p>	<p>Recommendations for close contacts of the person with symptoms</p>
<p>Person has symptoms and positive test for COVID-19 or clinical diagnosis of COVID-19</p>	<p>Individuals are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after receiving either 1) both doses of a 2-dose vaccine series or 2) a single dose vaccine.</p> <p>May return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.</p>	<p>All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance <i>except</i> those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.</p>
<p>Person has symptoms and negative test for COVID-19</p>	<p>If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met.</p> <p>If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.</p>	<p>Close contacts do not need to quarantine.</p>
<p>Person has symptoms and health care provider documents symptoms are due to a specific alternative diagnosis (ex. strep throat, otitis media, pre-existing condition such as asthma)</p>	<p>If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met.</p> <p>If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.</p>	<p>Close contacts do not need to quarantine.</p>
<p>Person has symptoms with no negative test for COVID-19 AND no specific alternative diagnosis</p>	<p>If no known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.</p> <p>If known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.</p>	<p>Household members² should not attend or work in a child care, school, or youth camp until the person with symptoms is able to return <i>except</i> those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.</p> <p>All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance <i>except</i> those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.</p>

¹For persons with symptoms who were previously infected with COVID-19 and recovered, follow [CDC guidance](#).

²These persons should not be reported to the local health department as contacts. The child care, school, or youth camp should inform the household members of these recommendations.