



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 (NMDOH), the New Mexico Public Education Department’s (NMPED) website, or any other applicable governmental entity website for current guidance.

1. “Close Contact” with a non-household member positive for COVID-19.;
2. Living with a household member that tested positive for COVID-19;
3. A positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptomatic of COVID-19 where the individual does not have a severe illness or severe immunosuppression;
4. A positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptomatic of COVID-19 where the individual has a severe illness or severe immunosuppression;
5. Acute COVID-19-like Symptoms;
6. COVID-19-like Symptoms from a Chronic Condition.

B. For the purposes of this Policy and pursuant to guidance from NMDOH and NMPED “close contact” occurs when someone who over a 24-hour period, has a cumulative exposure of fifteen minutes or longer within six feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case with or without a face covering.

Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where

1. Both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks; and
2. Other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

C. “Close Contact” with a non-household member positive for COVID-19.

If unvaccinated, in order to return to School premises all of the following criteria must be met:

1. At least 10 consecutive days have passed since the last date of contact with the infected individual;
2. No one in the student or staff member’s family has tested positive for COVID-19 since the date of exposure; and
3. The student or staff member has not developed symptoms since the date of exposure.

If vaccinated see Section I of this Policy.

D. Living with a household member positive for COVID-19. If unvaccinated, in order to return to School premises all of the following criteria must be met:

1. It has been at least 10 consecutive days since from the last date on which the infected individual is likely to have been infectious (10 days after symptom onset, or 10 days from specimen collection leading to positive test result);
2. The student or staff member has completed at least 10 consecutive days of home quarantine since the household member’s symptom onset or the day they tested positive for COVID-19; and
3. The student or staff member has not developed symptoms during this period.

If vaccinated see Section I of this Policy.

E. A positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptomatic of COVID-19 where the individual does not have a severe illness or severe immunosuppression

1. At least 10 consecutive days have passed since the symptoms first appeared not counting the first day of symptoms;
2. At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
3. There is improvement in symptoms.

F. A positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptomatic of COVID-19 where the individual has a severe illness or severe immunosuppression.

1. At least 20 consecutive days have passed since the symptoms first appeared not counting the first day of symptoms;
2. At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
3. There is improvement in symptoms.

G. COVID-19-like Acute Symptoms

Students or school staff with no known exposure to COVID-19 and with new onset (acute) COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home to quarantine, unless they provide evidence that they are fully vaccinated pursuant to Section I of this Policy, in which case they may stay in school provided that the symptoms do not interfere with the ability to work or learn at school.

If an unvaccinated symptomatic person has had a known exposure to COVID-19, they must quarantine for the full 10 days regardless of if they receive a negative test.

H. COVID-19-like from a Chronic Condition.

1. Students who have not provided evidence of vaccination and who exhibit chronic, mild non-specific COVID-19 symptoms should have their symptoms assessed either by a school nurse or primary care provider.
 - a. If there are no changes in symptoms from the baseline state, students do not need to be tested and may participate in school.
 - b. If students have a change in symptoms from their baseline as assessed either by a school nurse or a primary care provider, then the students should be tested for COVID-19 and be placed in isolation until the results are available. A negative result will discontinue the isolation.
 - c. If a student has a change in their baseline state and the student does not get tested, the student must self-isolate for 10 days and be fever-free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours and have improving symptoms before returning to school.
2. Staff with allergies, asthma, or other non-infectious chronic disease which may present with mild non-specific COVID-19 symptoms should contact their primary care provider. The primary care provider may furnish the staff member with medical documentation stating that present, non-specific mild symptoms do not differ from the patient's baseline, indicating the individual may return to school without being tested for COVID-19.
3. Students or staff who have not provided evidence of COVID-19 vaccination, who have tested negative for COVID-19 in the past two weeks and who have no known exposure to COVID-19, do not need to be tested again in the presence of chronic symptoms that have not changed in a meaningful way during that interval. If those symptoms were to change from their baseline, then the student or staff should begin home isolation.
4. Students or staff with mild, chronic conditions, such as asthma or allergies, who have not provided evidence of COVID-19 vaccination and who receive a negative BinaxNOW COVID-19 antigen test, are not required to self-isolate and may participate in school and extracurricular activities until such time as the individual has a positive COVID-19 test or has a change in symptoms. A note from a primary care provider is not required for reentry in such cases.

- I. Fully Vaccinated Persons.** A student or staff member who is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and has a close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 and the contact occurred during that person's infectious period is not required to quarantine if all of the following criteria are met:

1. The individual has been fully vaccinated (≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine); and
2. Has remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

If a fully vaccinated individual develops symptoms following the close contact, they must quarantine and are strongly encouraged to be tested. The individual may provide proof of a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test in order to end their quarantine. If new symptoms develop after the original test, the individual must re-quarantine and be tested again in order to confirm a negative result and end quarantine.

Proof of vaccination may be in the form of the vaccination card indicating the individual completed a course of COVID-19 vaccination at least 14 days prior to the current date or a print out or screen shot from NMVaxView indicating the individual completed a course of COVID-19 vaccination at least 14 days prior to the current date.

J. 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 Coronavirus Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy 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.

K. 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.

Approved by the Coral Community Charter School Governing Council on: August 3, 2021.