

STUDENT PRESENTS TO SCHOOL HEALTH OFFICE WITH AN ILLNESS COMPLAINT

CDC COVID-19 SYMPTOMS: Fever of 100.4 or higher/chills, new uncontrolled cough, difficulty breathing, fatigue, congestion/runny nose, sore throat, headache, muscle/ body ache, loss of taste or smell, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea (CDC, 2020, October 21) [CDC COVID Symptoms](#)

CDC MULTISYSTEM INFLAMMATORY SYNDROME IN CHILDREN (MIS-C) SYMPTOMS: Abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes, fatigue, confusion (CDC, 2020, May 29) [CDC MIS-C](#)

YES

- ▶ Staff applies full PPE if not already wearing* (See [NASN/NASSNC PPE Doc](#))
- ▶ Remove student's face covering and apply a one-time use, surgical mask instead
- ▶ Isolate in separate room

Is student having difficulty breathing, persistent pain or pressure in chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, blue lips or face, or any other symptoms that are severe and a concern to you? (CDC, 2020, July 23)

YES

- ▶ Call 911 & notify ER of transport
- ▶ Notify family & school administration
- ▶ Document on tracking form
- ▶ Notify designated public health authority in compliance with state guidelines
- ▶ Follow up with community mitigation according to the school district/public health department plan, to reduce or prevent transmission

NO

- ▶ Staff applies face mask if not already wearing
- ▶ Provide routine care according to approved guidelines
- ▶ Request student return if symptoms increase or persist.

RETURN TO CLASS

NO

- ▶ Contact family and send home
- ▶ Educate on when to return to school
- ▶ Document on tracking form
- ▶ Notify designated public health authority in compliance with state guidelines

INFORMATION ON NURSING ASSESSMENT – Only a licensed school nurse can conduct nursing assessment. School nurses have the education and skills to conduct a comprehensive assessment for students with chronic health conditions and other special healthcare need that exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 and MIS-C. Many of the symptoms of respiratory distress in students with asthma are the same as COVID-19. The school nurse uses critical thinking skills and nursing experience to determine the plan of care and disposition of students in accordance with individual state nurse practice act. Documentation of an assessment is a required element based on best practices and school system policies. If an unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) is using the flow chart and has questions or a nursing assessment is needed, the UAP is directed to contact the school nurse.

LEVELS OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION – Levels of COVID-19 community transmission are an essential consideration in providing for a safe school community. Transmission risk is based on the school systems mitigation and learning modalities. During periods of time when community transmission is increasing, school vigilance in the identification of students that exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 at school is critical. For more information on the CDC indicators and thresholds for risk of introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in schools go to: [CDC Indicators of Transmission](#)

Disclaimer statement: This document provides a summary of currently available resources that school nurses can consult as they formulate independent nursing judgement for their practice or when participating in policy discussions in their districts. This document is not intended to provide clinical standards or guidelines. The school nurse is responsible for complying with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, ordinances, executive orders, policies, and any other applicable sources of authority, including any applicable standards of practice.

REFERENCES:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, September 15). Community, work and school. *Indicators for dynamic school decision-making*. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, October 21). Community, work and school. *Screening K-12 students for symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and considerations*. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, May 29). Multisystem Inflammatory Disease. (MIS-C.) <https://www.cdc.gov/mis-c/index.html>