

**Behaviors that will limit the spread of any type of infection:**

1. Washing hands, well and often.
2. Staying home with any symptoms of illness.
3. Stay up to date on all recommended vaccinations.

**What if student/staff gets sick at school?**

An individual who has significant symptoms of illness (such as listed below) will be sent home

- fever  $\geq$  100.4 F
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- flu-like symptoms
- a rash of unknown origin

Individuals with a mixture of mild symptoms may be sent home. The School Nurse makes decisions for individual care based on clinical judgement, and may conduct LAMP testing for COVID-19, in accordance with current VT Department of Health recommendations (see below).

All may be asked to wear a mask in the school nurse office. In other cases, wearing masks at school is optional.

**When can student/staff return to school after illness?**

- When symptoms of illness have improved.
- Symptoms of fever, vomiting, or diarrhea, should be resolved for at least 24 hours without medication before returning to school.
- If an antibiotic is warranted (such as for strep throat), the individual may return 24 hours after starting the antibiotic and symptoms are improved.

**When can student/staff return to school after testing positive for COVID19?**

Individuals may return to school when at least five full days of isolation have passed from the date of test or the onset of symptoms, whichever is earlier, AND they have been fever free without the use of medication for at least 24 hours. VT Department of Health recommends wearing a mask for five days after completing five days of isolation.

*The American Association of Pediatrics strongly recommends that a child's primary care provider be notified of their Covid-19 illness in order to discuss if further evaluation is warranted prior to returning to physical exertion.*

**Testing for COVID-19 in Schools**

School nurses may test students for COVID19 in their office with parent consent.

A positive test means the child will be sent home for 5 FULL days of isolation from start date of symptoms.

If students have illness symptoms and/or are not well enough to engage in school, they will be sent home even if the test is negative.

Our schools have rapid COVID19 tests available if you wish to test your family members at home.