



Our goal has always been to keep students in class so they can learn alongside their peers. However, this year is much different due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With much still unknown about the virus and how it presents itself in children, we have been given [guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health](#) on how to best proceed when children get sick at school. The following is typically what will happen when your child goes to the nurse not feeling well:

- The school nurse will do an assessment including monitoring symptoms, checking health history, and possibly contacting the teacher and parent.
- If the school nurse determines their symptoms can not be attributed to previously known factors, the following steps will apply:
  - The student will be sent home for **one high risk symptom**:
    - New cough
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - New loss of taste or smell
  - The student will also be sent home for **two low risk symptoms**:
    - Fever (*we will always send home for a fever of 100.4 or greater whether or not accompanied by other symptoms*)
    - Headache
    - Muscle and body aches
    - Fatigue
    - Sore throat
    - Runny nose
    - Congestion
    - Nausea
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
- We ask that you contact your child's provider for next steps.
- If the provider determines a COVID-19 test is needed, the child must stay home until the test results are known.
  - If the test comes back positive, please let your school nurse know right away so that next steps may be taken.
- If an alternate diagnosis is provided (i.e. allergies, cold, strep throat, etc), the child may return to school after 24 hours fever free without medications, 24 hours starting antibiotic treatment, 24 hours free of vomiting or diarrhea, or with provider note/approval.
- If you choose to not take your child to a healthcare provider and a COVID-19 test was not administered, we may ask you to keep your child home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and until ALL symptoms have resolved. Each situation is unique and will be determined on a case by case basis.

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