



# Benton Co. Schools

## Health Plan 2020-2021

We are excited to welcome back all of our students and staff members for the 2020-2021 school year! As we enter the new school year, we would like to encourage all students and staff members to monitor your symptoms daily and please stay home if you are sick.

If you experience fever, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea, chills/body aches, or onset of any new symptoms please consult with your local healthcare provider and remain at home until cleared to return to school.

These questions will be used to screen students and staff members each day:

- Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
  - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or stomach symptoms?
  - Have you had fever in the past 48 hours?
  - Have you had any loss of taste or smell?
  - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
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- Temperatures will be checked with a no-touch thermometer as you enter the building. If any student or staff member has a temperature over 99.0, they will be sent to the nurse for further screening and a temperature recheck with a different thermometer.
  - All staff members and students grades K-12 are expected to wear a face mask (if able to tolerate). Students will be educated on how to properly wear a face mask and the importance of wearing a face mask when unable to social distance.

### **Sick Day Guidelines**

#### **Symptoms Requiring Absence:**

1. Active vomiting or diarrhea
2. Fever of 100.0 or higher. If temperature is over 99.0 and multiple symptoms exist, a student may be sent home. Nurses will use their discretion and notify parents accordingly.
3. The first 24 hours of antibiotic treatment for any infectious disease such as: strep throat, pink eye, impetigo, ringworm, staph infections, etc.
4. A student should be fever-free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school.
5. Any student being treated for infectious diseases or requiring antibiotic treatment should bring a doctor's note to return to school.

#### **If COVID-19 is Suspected:**

#### **Symptoms of COVID-19:**

1. Cough
2. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
3. Fever/chills

4. New loss of taste or smell
5. Fatigue
6. Muscle or body aches
7. Headaches
8. Sore throat
9. Congestion or runny nose
10. Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea

**When the school nurse, or trained personnel, identifies a student that has one or more of the above listed symptoms, the following steps will be taken:**

1. If fever is present, a mask will be placed on the student (unless the student is having trouble breathing or unable to tolerate).
2. The student will be placed in an isolation area and assessed by the nurse or trained personnel.
3. Parents will be notified to pick student up immediately and seek a medical evaluation by their healthcare provider. For further information: <https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/health.html>
4. Any student with fever over 100.0 should remain home for 72 hours. The student may return after 72 hours when fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicines and with a doctor's note stating student may return.
5. Any student or staff member tested for COVID-19 may not return to school until instructed they are cleared to return by their local healthcare provider or the TN Dept. of Health.
6. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the school nurse should be notified and follow the guidelines below:

**If a direct case of COVID-19 is confirmed in the school system:**

1. School nurses will coordinate with local public health officials as needed for follow-up and next steps to be taken while maintaining the individual's privacy.
2. The TN Dept. of Health will conduct contact tracing to identify close contacts and give further guidance on isolation procedures for confirmed cases.
3. Benton Co. Schools will follow TN Dept. of Health guidelines on when students and staff should return to school. All students and staff members are expected to follow any instructions given to them by the TN Dept. of Health. <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/CaseGuidance.pdf>

**Returning to School:**

Students and staff should not return until one of the following conditions are met:

1. A healthcare provider has confirmed the individual's illness is not due to COVID-19 because another explanation has been identified such as strep throat confirmed by a positive strep test. A doctor's note **will be** required.
2. The student or staff member is cleared by their healthcare provider to return to normal activity and given documentation to return to school. **ALL** students or staff members diagnosed with COVID-19 **MAY NOT** return until completion of Isolation guidelines set forth by the TN Dept. of Health.

**These protocols and procedures may be revised throughout the school year in response to changing conditions.**

