

Responding to a Suspected Case or Lab-Confirmed Case of COVID-19

GSA is committed to putting health and safety protocols in place that will help to prevent the occurrence and/or spread of COVID-19. However, we must be prepared to quickly and effectively respond to a lab-confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.

Responding to a Possible COVID-19 Case on campus:

- Any student who shows symptoms associated with COVID-19, while on campus, will immediately be escorted to the porch at Lisa's House. The student's parents will be called, and the student will remain on the porch at Lisa's House with a GSA staff member until she is picked up.
- Any staff member who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school/work will immediately move to a separate isolation space until they are able to return home.
- All areas used by the student or staff who show COVID-19 symptoms while on campus will be closed for the day and thoroughly cleaned/disinfected professionally that evening. Students/staff in close proximity will be relocated.
- Students and staff who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Responding to a Lab-Confirmed COVID19 Case off campus:

- GSA will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected. All classes will be offered virtually.
- Consistent with school notification requirements for communicable diseases and legal confidentiality requirements, GSA will notify the Austin Health Department, all faculty, staff, and families of all students in a class if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities.
- Students and staff that have had direct contact/primary exposure (defined by CDC as being within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes) with the affected member needs to quarantine for 14 days after last contact. This includes students, siblings, and staff who have been a part of the affected school member's classroom and school space.

- All students who are quarantined will transition to remote and virtual learning for the duration of the quarantine period. If quarantined students/staff have no symptoms arise during the 14-day quarantine period, they can return at the end of the 14-day period. If quarantined students/staff develop symptoms during the 14-day quarantine period, they will need to meet the criteria listed below before returning to school.

Criteria for Returning to School or Work After a Confirmed or Suspected Case of COVID-19:

Any individual who is either lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or experiencing the symptoms that could be COVID-19 (listed above) must stay home throughout the infection period (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic), and cannot return to school or work until meeting the symptom-based criteria for returning, or provide a doctor's note giving clearance to return.

Symptom-Based Criteria (must meet all three criteria to return):

1. At least 2 days (48 hours) have passed since last fever (defined by less than 100F without the use of fever-reducing medications); AND
2. The individual has resolution of symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); AND
3. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared OR since a positive COVID test was obtained in an asymptomatic individual.

* No COVID-19 contact history in the past 14 days:

- If a clear alternative non-respiratory diagnosis is identified by a healthcare provider as the cause of the person's illness (e.g., a positive urine culture in a febrile child), then usual disease-specific return-to-school guidance should be followed and person should be fever-free for 24 hours, without use of fever-reducing medicines.
- A healthcare provider note is required for return to school before 10 days of isolation, ensuring that the person is no longer contagious.

*Known contact with COVID-19 in the past 14 days:

- If no alternative diagnosis is identified by a healthcare provider as the cause of the person's illness, the ill person should isolate at home for 10 days after symptoms first appeared and until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicines, and other symptoms are improving.
- If an alternative respiratory diagnosis is identified by a healthcare provider as the cause of the person's illness (e.g., positive influenza test), COVID-19 is still not ruled out. Co-infection is possible. The ill person should isolate at home for 10 days after symptoms first appeared and until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicines, and other symptoms are improving.