



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

COVID-19 PSS Parents/Guardians

What do I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 from a community antigen screening test, they should not go to school. Your family might be asked to quarantine in your home.

If your child shows symptoms at school, they will be brought to the waiting room and you will be contacted.

This is what may happen:

1. Your child will wait in the isolation room at the school and be required to wear a mask.
2. Your school administrator/ designee will contact you to obtain consent to administer an antigen screening test.
3. Your principal, director or designee will call you to tell you the results of your child's test.
4. If your child tests positive, you will have to pick them up and follow isolation orders by self-reporting at <https://www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting>.
5. When your child completes their isolation order, they may return to school. Be sure to bring a copy of the Isolation Completion Certificate from the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center (it will be emailed to you when you self-report).

If your child has to be isolated, you can call your child's school to ask about online classes or to talk to someone about getting help for your child if they are anxious. Once you complete isolation orders and show no symptoms for 24 hours your child can return to school.

What will happen if there is a case of COVID-19 in my child's school?

1. Your child's school will work with the Commissioner of Education and the COVID-19 Task Force to isolate anyone who tests positive and will sanitize the classroom or building.
2. Your child's school might go online for a few days or might stay open based on the Commissioner's consultation with the COVID-19 Task Force and the State Board of Education.

Remember that students or staff who test positive will not be in your child's school until they recover and the risk of your child getting COVID-19 is very low due to the school's and CNMI's vaccination rates and sanitizing measures.

If masks are optional in K-12 schools, can my child still wear a mask?

Masks are still required for students on PSS buses because of the close contact and in isolation rooms to prevent the spread of germs and other contagious illnesses, but they are optional in class and elsewhere on campus. However your child may still wear a mask if you prefer them to.

There are many reasons why someone might choose to use a mask, even when it isn't required.

- Protecting a family member at home
- Having a weakened immune system
- Experiencing cold or flu and testes negative for COVID-19, to prevent spreading germs
- Personal preference
- Many other reasons

Will parents have to inform the school if their child or people in their family are positive?

You are not obligated to inform your school of your child's confidential health information. If you want to let your child's principal or teacher know, you can reach out to them to know why your child is absent without sharing results. Your child's health information is private and you don't have to share your child's results with anyone.

If my child is positive, are my child's classmates or teacher/school at risk?

Schools have many safety measures in place so that everyone is protected from getting COVID-19. PSS has a very high vaccination rate for staff and will continue to implement safety measures as directed by COE.

How long will my child be contagious if they test positive?

Your child will not be contagious for very long. Usually, people who recover from COVID-19 are no longer contagious 10 days after they test positive.

What if my child is exposed to a positive case but they are fully vaccinated? Do they have to self-quarantine?

It depends. If your child does display symptoms or test positive they must follow the reporting procedures. If they test negative they can go back to school.

Will my child's or other children's results be shared with the school or district?

School Administrators communicate directly with parents/guardians and do not share that information with the school unless the testing is done at the school and the principal calls families to inform them. PSS tracks the number of cases in schools and offices but does not report names.

Can the school share a name of the student or staff member who is a confirmed case of Covid-19?

No, the school cannot share the name of the person who has tested positive for Covid-19. This information is private and confidential. Close contacts will not be told the name of the confirmed case.

Can anyone else force me to share my child's information?

No. No other parent, employer, colleague, government employee, school employee, or individual can make you share your child's health information. Your family's health information is private and you have the right not to share.

How will COVID-19 stay in my child's system and can it be detected in a test after they recover?

The COVID-19 virus can be detected up to 90 days after your child recovers. Your child will not be contagious anymore but that doesn't mean they will never get COVID-19 again.

What if the newspaper or news contact the school, will they share my child's information?

Even if the news contacts your child's school, their health information is private and will not be shared. The school can share how many test positive and how they are working with the task force, but they will never share names or information that will identify your child or other children.

How will the school or teachers treat my child after they recover and go back?

Your child will be cared for and given the same treatment as every student. The school might monitor their health to make sure they are strong and not showing symptoms but they will always communicate with you when they do.

Who can I talk to if I have any more questions?

As always, you can talk to, call or email your child's principal or teacher. You can also call PSS or email the department you have questions or concerns about, to find the contact information, you can go to cnmipss.org. You can also call the contact tracing team at 287-1729/22 if you have questions about exposure to positive individuals or tracing procedures.

How can I stay updated on the COVID-19 information?

PSS will send memos to your child's school with important information that you need to know. Keep your contact information updated at your child's school so that you get important news on time. If you need additional support or you or your child feels anxious or worried while in isolation, you may contact (670) 284-0847 between 8:30 am to 3:30 pm for support.