

COVID-19 Update from Nurse Tonya

Let's All Stay Healthy for 2023-2024

When a student tests positive for COVID-19 Albemarle County Public Schools, the parent/guardian of a student diagnosed with COVID-19 should contact their child's school nurse as soon as possible. Any student who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must isolate (stay home and away from others) for at least 5 days.

The student may return to school when their symptoms have improved AND they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication AND one of the following applies:

- They receive a negative COVID-19 antigen (rapid) test on or after Day 6 (with Day 0 being the first day of symptoms or the date of the positive test, whichever came first); or
- They wear a well-fitting mask on Days 6-10. Without a negative antigen test or masking, the student may return to school on Day 11 (after 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms). Please refer to the following timeline: Day 0 – First day of symptoms or date of positive test (whichever came first): Day 6 – Student may return to school on or after this date if the above criteria are met AND they receive a negative COVID-19 antigen test or they agree to wear a well-fitting mask through Day 10: Day 11 – Student may return to school if the above criteria are met, with or without a negative antigen test or masking: In every circumstance, the student may not return to school until their symptoms have improved and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Important Notes:

- ACPS will provide an antigen test to any student who needs one.
- A signed Parent/Guardian Declaration Form (or documentation from a health professional) must be provided as proof of a negative COVID-19 antigen test.

Parent/Guardian Declaration Form: Negative COVID-19 Antigen Testing

Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 must stay home for at least 5 days. The student may return to school when their symptoms have improved AND they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication AND one of the following applies:

- They receive a negative COVID-19 antigen (rapid) test **on or after Day 6** (with Day 0 being the first day of symptoms or the date of the positive test, whichever came first); or
- They wear a well-fitting mask on **Days 6-10**.

Without a negative antigen test or masking, the student may return to school on **Day 11** (after 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms).

Any student who is sent home from school with COVID-19 symptoms following a known exposure may return to school when their symptoms have improved AND they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication AND one of the following applies:

- The student has provided a Return to School Form completed by a health care provider;
- The student has received a negative COVID-19 PCR test;
- The student has provided a signed Parent/Guardian Declaration Form as proof of two negative COVID-19 antigen tests taken 48 hours apart OR one negative COVID-19 antigen test taken on or after Day 6; or
- At least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms
- The declaration forms are located at the clinic in the school. Parents can pick them up.

Isolation Instructions for Staff

Albemarle County Public Schools

- Any employee who tests positive for COVID-19 must **isolate** (stay home and away from others) for **at least 5 days**. The employee may return to work on Day 6 if their symptoms have improved, they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and they agree to wear a well-fitted mask on Days 6 through 10 (with Day 0 being the first day of symptoms or the date of the positive test, whichever came first). Please refer to the following timeline:

Day 0 – First day of symptoms or date of positive test (whichever came first): _____

Day 6 – Employee may return to work if above criteria are met and they agree to wear a mask _____

Day 11 – Employee may return to work if they meet the above criteria and do not need to wear a mask _____

- In every circumstance, the employee may not return to work until their symptoms have improved and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Employees may remove their mask at work on Days 6 through 10 if they test negative via an antigen test, although masking is still recommended. Please see the [CDC's Isolation Guidance](#) for additional instructions if symptoms return.*

