



COVID-19 Testing and Doctor's Note Guidance

October 2, 2020

The local departments of public health in Illinois, Cook County and Chicago have recently updated their guidance concerning COVID-19 testing and return-to-work/school admittance. Based on this new guidance, any individual (student or employee) who experiences COVID-like symptom(s):

- Should be sent home immediately with any siblings
- All students in the home may return to school if the symptoms dissipate within 24 hours and they have not been exposed to any individual infected with COVID-19

If symptoms do not dissipate within 24 hours, the individual should be:

- referred to their healthcare provider for COVID-19 testing (it is important to note the type of test administered)
- quarantined with the entire family while awaiting the test result

The individual may return to school if **both** of the following criteria are met:

- Documentation of a negative test for COVID-19
- 24-hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication)

If symptoms persist, the individual should obtain an alternate diagnosis from a medical provider in addition to the negative COVID-19 diagnosis (e.g., strep throat diagnosis and negative COVID-19 result). If an alternative diagnosis of a communicable illness is provided, the individual should stay home until symptoms have receded per doctor's instruction.

As a reminder, a doctor's note is not required for individuals who are:

- Confirmed COVID-19 positive. For the individual to return to school he or she must have:
 - a. remained at home for 10 days,
 - b. no fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication), and
 - c. a general reduction of other symptoms by 75% or more.
- Quarantined, but not symptomatic, due to COVID-19 exposure. Individuals may return to school if they have been quarantined for 14 days and not developed symptoms of COVID-19 during that time.