

COVID-19 SCHOOL/DAYCARE GUIDANCE

Applicable Laws/Rules: ORC 3701.14, 3701.23 Standing Order: None



The Delaware General Health District (DGHD) has been working in coordination with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in monitoring the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus named COVID-19. This is a rapidly evolving situation and the DGHD is committed to working with our partners, including education facilities and daycares, throughout the situation.

Background

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people such as has been seen with MERS and SARS. When person-to-person spread has occurred with SARS and MERS, it is thought to have happened via respiratory droplets. COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

Health officials are responding to an outbreak of COVID-19 that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and has now been detected in numerous countries across the globe as well as the United States.

Interim Guidance for Schools/Daycares

The Health District is asking schools and daycares to increase surveillance in order to identify any symptomatic students or staff members who may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the two weeks before their illness started. Any student or staff member reporting a fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (such as cough or shortness of breath) should be asked if they have been around an ill person being investigated for COVID-19 or traveled to any countries seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases. Any student or staff member who meets these criteria needs to be reported to DGHD immediately.

Schools and daycares with automated absentee call in systems may want to adjust these messages to request that staff/children calling off due to illness report if they may have been exposed to COVID-19 before becoming ill.

If a student or staff member presents to your clinic and meets the criteria as a suspect case of COVID-19 they should be given a mask and be removed from the facility as soon as possible. If an individual is sent to a medical provider to be evaluated, that provider should be notified prior to the student arriving so the provider can take proper precautions. If the individual's condition warrants EMS transport, explain to EMS that the patient is a suspect case of COVID-19 so EMS can take the proper precautions. Report this suspect case to the DGHD immediately and we will work with you and our partners to ensure the individual is isolated and tested for COVID-19 as well as other respiratory illnesses.

Please also refer to CDC school guidance:

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools)

Reporting

Contact the Delaware General Health District **IMMEDIATELY** to notify them of individuals with fever and lower respiratory illness who may have been exposed to COVID-19 within 14 days of symptom onset. Cases of COVID-19 are class A, meaning cases should be reported to the Delaware General Health District **IMMEDIATELY** via telephone. Please report all cases to the Health District by calling (740) 203-2040 or (740) 815-6518 if during non-business hours.

For More Information

ODH: odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus

CDC: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)