

PSB PROTOCOL FOR SYMPTOMATIC TESTING OF INDIVIDUALS WHO DEVELOP SYMPTOMS WHILE AT SCHOOL.

DESE/DPH BinaxNOW program: Testing of mildly symptomatic staff or students who develop symptoms while in school, following the BinaxNOW checklist.*

Students and staff who develop symptoms at home must STAY HOME UNTIL THEY HAVE TESTED NEGATIVE FOR COVID-19 (and symptoms have improved). *Individuals who arrive at school with symptoms, will not be tested as that is in opposition to a key mitigation strategy of staying home when ill, and it is in opposition to the health attestation requested of all staff and students.*

Individuals with any of the following symptoms, vaccinated or not, may be tested to rule out COVID-19. PSB must have a signed consent in order to conduct tests.

The School nurse will have discretion on decision-making in individual cases):

- **Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies)

PSB will inform individual and/or parent/guardian of their child's symptoms, rapid test results, and of share pertinent advice:

- **If positive**, must stay home in isolation for minimum of 10 days from symptom onset, or positive test; be fever free without fever reducing medication and have improvement of other symptoms.
- If negative, but exhibits any of the symptoms in bold above, must be dismissed and obtain PCR test and have symptom improvement.
- If negative and mild symptoms, can go back to class at nurse's discretion
- If the minimal symptom(s) persist, the individual may be re-tested within the subsequent 3 days. If symptoms worsen, the individual should stay home and seek medical care and be evaluated for the need for PCR testing.

Note: BinaxNOW tests are less sensitive and less specific than PCR tests. PCR confirmation is recommended for asymptomatic persons with a positive BinaxNOW test, and for symptomatic persons with a negative test, unless those symptoms are unlikely to be due to COVID-19. If the results are discordant, for the purposes of these protocols the PCR result would be taken as the true result.

Timing of test and location of tests will be developed in consultation with CIC support team.

Thorough documentation and tracking of cases and dates of release.

Timely communication to individual and/or parent/guardian.

Notification to appropriate school community members, in timely manner.