

Updated Respiratory Guidance for Schools

On March 1, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their COVID-19 guidelines to streamline recommendations for common respiratory viral illnesses such as COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

The following summarizes the updated guidance provided to the school system by the West Virginia Department of Health as it relates to schools.

- Students and staff who get sick with a respiratory illness should stay home and away from others.
- Students and staff may return to school and normal activities when symptoms have been getting better overall for 24 hours, and if fever was present, it has been gone for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- Students should not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities while they are home sick and potentially contagious.
- Once students or staff return to school; they are encouraged to take precautions for the next 5 days to curb disease spread within the school setting including: proper hand hygiene practices, wearing a mask, and keeping distance from others.