

2023-2024

Willington Public Schools

Respiratory Disease Prevention and Enhanced Outbreak Management and Control Protocols



NOTE: This document is subject to change

March 2024

LEA COVID-19/respiratory infection Health and Safety Compliance Liaison:	Phil Stevens, Superintendent
Liaison Email:	pstevens@willingtonct.org
Contact Phone:	860-487-3130

The Wellington Public Schools will continue following the recommendations of the CDC, EHHD, and DPH regarding their recommendations for individuals with COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. This document, updated in March 2024, reflects the new recommendations from the CDC.

Staff and students need to stay home if they have respiratory virus symptoms that are not better explained by another cause. These symptoms can include fever, chills, fatigue, cough, runny nose, and headache, among others. You can go back to your normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both are true:

- Your symptoms are getting better overall, and
- You have not had a fever for 24 hours and have not been using fever-reducing medication.

When you go back to your normal activities, take added precautions over the next 5 days, practicing proper [hygiene](#), utilizing [masks](#), [physical distancing](#), and/or [testing when you](#) will be around other people indoors.

Keep in mind that you may still be able to spread the virus that made you sick, even if you are feeling better. You are likely to be less contagious at this time, depending on factors like how long you were sick or how sick you were.

If you develop a fever or you start to feel worse after you have gone back to normal activities, stay home and away from others again until, for at least 24 hours, both are true:

- your symptoms are improving overall, and
- you have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication). Fever is mentioned as a specific symptom in the guidance because people tend to be more infectious when they have a fever.

Then take added precautions for the next 5 days. [CDC Recommendation](#)

Physical Plant Protocols

- Ventilation systems will continue to operate while buildings are occupied.
- Rooms without ventilation may utilize a mounted fan exhausting air out of the classroom window.

Mask Protocols

- Any school community member with a fever, or with COVID-19/respiratory illness symptoms must wear a mask while in the nurse's office.
- Children and staff with mild respiratory symptoms who are reporting to school are strongly encouraged to wear a well-fitting mask.
- Recommended to wear a mask for 5 days upon return to school following a positive COVID-19 test

Attendance Protocols

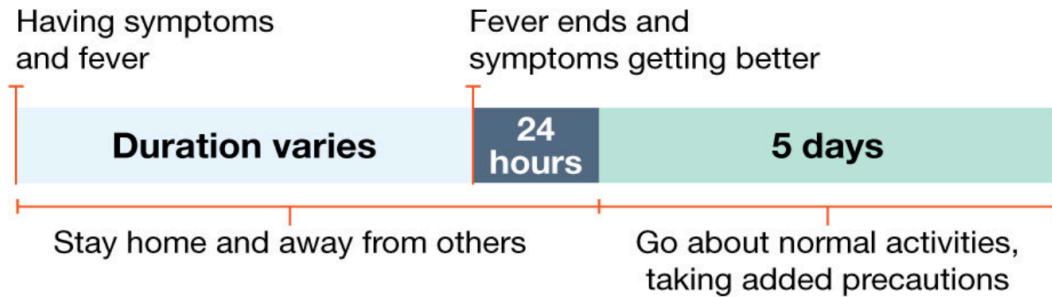
- Students and staff with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees are not permitted in school. Students and staff will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, without fever-reducing medicine for a full 24 hours.

- Parents are to inform the school nurse if their child is sick with COVID-19/respiratory illness symptoms or if they had known contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19/respiratory illness.
- Children and staff with mild respiratory symptoms (infrequent cough, congestion, runny nose, sore throat) but do not have a fever and no known COVID-19/respiratory illness case in their household should consider COVID-19 testing. It is recommended that children and staff retest if symptoms persist after several days.

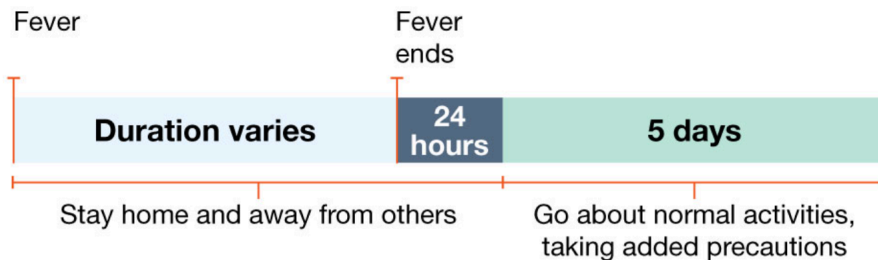
What does “improving symptoms” or “symptoms are getting better” mean?

This means that a person is starting to feel better, and the body is returning to normal after an infection. A respiratory virus infection can have many types of symptoms, some of which can last beyond when someone is infectious, such as a lingering cough. So having a single symptom or a combination of symptoms is not as important as the overall sense of feeling better and the ability to resume activities. [CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance FAQs](#)

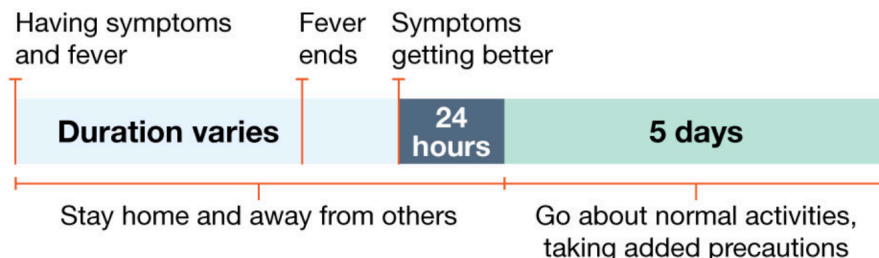
Example 1: Person with fever and symptoms.



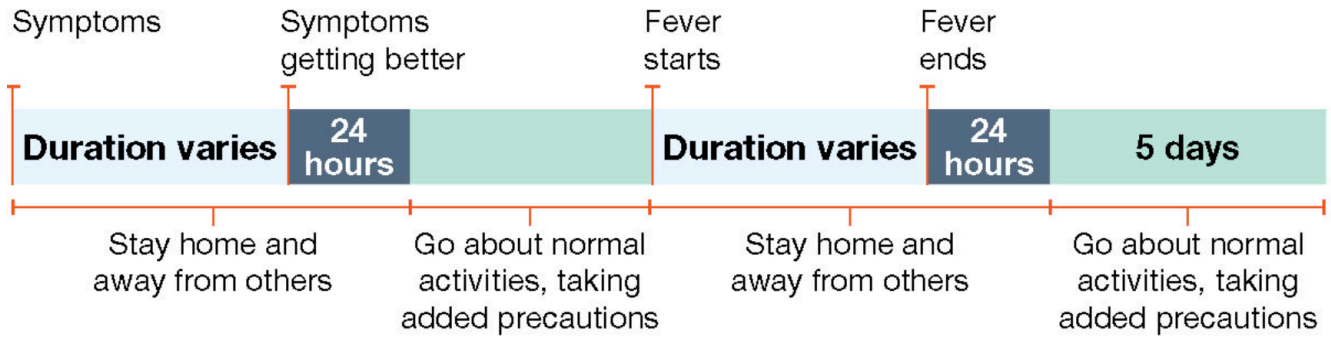
Example 2: Person with fever but no other symptoms.



Example 3: Person with fever and other symptoms, fever ends but other symptoms take longer to improve.



Example 4: Person gets better and then gets a fever.



Clusters and Outbreaks Protocols

A cluster is defined as 10% of students and/or staff within a specified group (ie. classroom, bus, reading group, grade) OR 3 or more students and/or staff within a specified group who test positive for COVID-19 within a 14-day period. If a cluster is identified, more information should be gathered to identify possible sources of exposure.

An outbreak is a cluster where in-school transmission was highly likely. If an outbreak is identified, Willington Public Schools will follow DPH recommendations for enhanced mitigation strategies for outbreak control including:

- Implementing a local universal masking policy for students and staff on a temporary basis. Implementation of masking can be done at the classroom, grade, or school level depending on the extension of transmission and structure of the school.
- Limiting mixing of impacted grades, classrooms, or other groups (i.e., cohorting) during meals, recess, and other gathering times to limit spread.
- Limiting outside visitors to the school to those who are necessary for instructional or student support purposes.
- Staff and families will be notified of outbreaks or clusters if their child is part of the identified group.
- If a cluster cannot be controlled with these strategies it may develop into a worsening cluster, defined as 20% of the group testing positive within 21 days. In this situation, the Willington Public Schools would contact Eastern Highlands Health District and the Department of Public Health to discuss further mitigation strategies, including the potential of temporarily closing schools.

The Willington Board of Education grants the Superintendent of Schools the authority to modify district protocols in consultation with Eastern Highlands Health District and the Department of Public Health as necessary.