

Symptom Screening

In-Person Learning Resources for Parents and Caregivers at Chicago Public Schools — A Resource Created by Healthy Schools Campaign for Parents and Caregivers in Chicago Public Schools

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**HEALTHY SCHOOLS
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Symptom Screening

Your school should reinforce a culture of health, safety and shared responsibility among all students, staff and families. One of the most important ways to do this is to encourage that all members of the school community be educated on the symptoms of COVID-19, that they know to stay home when sick and to ensure that symptoms are checked prior to entry into the school building.

What Experts Say

It is very important that no student, teacher or staff member comes to school with any symptoms of sickness. Symptom screening recommendations from public health experts include:

- Parents and caregivers may be asked to confirm that their student is not sick before school each day, and teachers may be asked to self-report their own symptoms.
- Adults in the school should be trained to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19, and schools should [have a plan to isolate individuals who present with symptoms while inside the school](#).
- Schools may implement temperature or other health checks to identify potential cases.
- School policies regarding attendance requirements may be changed to reflect the seriousness of COVID-19.

What CPS Says

All CPS students, staff and approved visitors will be asked to complete an online symptom screener questionnaire each day they are planning on entering a CPS building. Parents or a designated family member need to complete the daily questionnaire on behalf of each child. Any staff member or visitor who comes to school without taking the questionnaire will be screened upon arrival at school. If they fail the screening, they will be sent home. Additionally, all staff, students, and visitors will be asked to undergo daily temperature checks once they arrive at school.

Drop off times will be staggered and students will enter the building through assigned entrances alongside their pods to ensure proper physical distancing. Upon entering the building, students will wash their hands and use hand sanitizer.

Parents and Caregivers Should Know

CPS has included policies that screen for symptoms prior to allowing entry to CPS buildings. You can ask your school the following questions related to the follow-through of these policies and how the school plans to treat individuals who arrive at school showing symptoms.

- How will the school avoid crowding at arrival as symptoms are checked and temperatures are taken for each student?
- Who will be responsible for temperature checks on arrival and ensuring that symptom checks are complete?
- Where is the space to quarantine symptomatic students located, and who is in charge of supervising that space?
- What is the school's contact tracing and quarantining plan?
- Will all of my children have the same arrival time?
- How does staggered arrival time affect school buses?
- How will the school prevent symptom/positive result shaming?

The best practices in this document are based on guidelines provided by the Harvard [T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#) and the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).