

Porter County Education Services

SELF School: Return to Learn 2021-2022

Updated 7-20-2021

PRE-K-12 RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD

This information is designed to help local officials make decisions about school operations based on the level of COVID-19 in their counties.


PRE K-12 RECOMMENDATIONS	BLUE (minimal community spread)	YELLOW (moderate community spread)	ORANGE (moderate to high community spread)	RED (high community spread)
SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools may operate all grades in-person school taking all proper precautions including maximizing social distancing, focus on hand hygiene, and masks. * • Limit activities where social distancing is not feasible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools may continue all grades in-person school but should be vigilant in taking all proper precautions including maximizing social distancing, focus on hand hygiene, and masks. * • No assemblies or activities where social distancing is not feasible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade schools may remain in-person. • Strong recommendation for hybrid learning for middle and high school students to allow for more social distancing in school. Continue to focus on hand hygiene and masks. *, ** • No assemblies or large group activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade schools may remain in-person or consider hybrid learning to allow for more social distancing. • Middle and high schools should consider virtual learning or continue with hybrid with strict social distancing and mask guidelines. *, ** • No assemblies or large group activities.
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extracurricular activities to follow state and local event gathering guidelines with social distancing and masks except when doing strenuous activity. • Limit spectators in accordance with state and local guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be vigilant about precautions for extra-curricular activities and postpone or cancel activities as warranted. • Athletic and extra-curricular activities should consider permitting parents/ guardians and close family only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong recommendation to limit extra-curricular activities and consider events with competitors/participants only, no in-person attendees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extracurricular activities should be canceled.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage community to actively participate in continued precautions. • Discussion with parents and guardians about limiting social events outside of school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with parents and guardians about limiting social events outside of school. • Local education leaders work with county health officials to determine if increased precautions and community engagement activities are necessary to prevent escalation of disease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with parents and guardians about limiting social events outside of school. • Local county education leaders will work collaboratively with local health departments to consider implementation of aggressive precaution measures both in schools and communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage social events. • Local county education leaders will work collaboratively with local health departments to consider implementation of aggressive precaution measures both in schools and communities.

<p>Current Statistics for Porter County (7/10/20)</p>	<p>Source: https://www.porterco.org/1638/Dashboard-for-DESKTOP-DEVICES</p>
<p>Parent Screening Measures before a child leaves home (keep child home if one or more symptoms not otherwise explained):</p>	<p>A fever of 100.4° F or greater • Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Chills • Repeated shaking with chills • Muscle pain • Headache • Sore throat • New loss of taste or smell</p> <p>A child (or employee) should stay home from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 listed above based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained.</p>
<p>Return to school after having one symptom above and NO COVID 19 test:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared and No fever for at least 24 hours (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and • Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); The state website has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their location, and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently.
<p>Return to school after having one symptom above and testing negative for COVID 19:</p>	<p>Return when the fever has been gone for 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers or upon feeling better</p>
<p>Return to school after having one symptom above and testing for POSITIVE for COVID 19 with symptoms:</p>	<p>First: Notify your school immediately of any positive test</p> <p>Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met: • The individual no longer has a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers); and • Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and • At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared.</p>
<p>Return to school after having one symptom above and testing for POSITIVE for COVID 19 asymptomatic:</p>	<p>Persons who have not had symptoms, but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone <u>ten calendar days without symptoms</u> without a fever for 24 hours without medicine. Students may also return if they are approved to do so in writing by the student's health care provider or Local Health Department Official.</p>
<p>If someone in your home has symptoms or is being tested for COVID 19:</p>	<p>Students and employees should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19 until the test has returned that is negative and/or they have a test that is negative.</p>
<p>If someone in your home has tested positive for COVID 19:</p>	<p>If an individual in one's home has COVID-19 or is quarantined because of COVID-19, those in the household should also stay home for a minimum of two weeks. Return to school after documented infection with COVID-19 should be directed by the individual's health care provider.</p>


Decision Making Model Based on Level of COVID-19 Spread

	Blue	Yellow	Orange	Red
Instruc tional Model	Traditional Learning (in-person)	Traditional Learning (in-person)	Hybrid A/B Schedule (in-person and eLearning)	Virtual learning until Community Spread decreases and then transition back to the Hybrid A/B Schedule with eLearning
Level of Respon se	School buildings are open with many additional cleaning, safety, and protective measures in place. Teachers will provide instruction based on a traditional schedule.	School buildings are open with many additional cleaning, safety, and protective measures in place. Teachers will provide instruction based on a traditional schedule.	<p>Hybrid A/B Schedule: Students are assigned one of two schedules (and assigned as a family):</p> <p><u>Schedule for Student Group A:</u> Traditional School Monday and Tuesday with eLearning on Wednesdays.</p> <p><u>Schedule for Student Group B:</u> Traditional School Thursdays and Fridays with eLearning on Wednesdays.</p>	<p>Virtual Learning will provide instruction from the teacher just as if the student was in the classroom. This may be a flipped model with a recorded instructional lesson. Students will be expected to attend all sessions and complete all work.</p> <p>Used for Short term closures for cleaning or Extended closures due community spread</p>

Teaching and Learning

<p style="text-align: center;">In-Person Traditional Schedule (Plan A)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In-Person and Virtual Hybrid Schedule (Plan B, until we can return to Plan A)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Virtual Schedule (Plan C, until we can return to plan B)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff and students self-screen each day before starting the day • Students are NOT required to wear a mask if vaccinated but encouraged when not vaccinated, when social distancing cannot be accomplished. Staff are NOT required to wear masks if they have been vaccinated but are encouraged to wear if not vaccinated • Desks are separated as much as possible, unnecessary furniture is removed, space is established between teacher instructional area and student space • Physical education held outside when weather permissible • Limit interaction through partner and group work • If working with a small group or individual student, masks encouraged • Limit large group gatherings • Designating areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) to walk to keep students separated (to the extent practicable). Minimize stopping in hallway • If students are rotating classrooms, desks are wiped between students by the student leaving the room • Seating charts are maintained in all classroom settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff and students self-screen each day before starting the day • Desks are separated as much as possible, unnecessary furniture is removed, space is established between teacher instructional area and student space • Physical education held outside when weather permissible • Limit interaction through partner and group work • Discourage the congregation of students in hallways, and common areas • Designating areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) to walk to keep students separated (to the extent practicable). Minimize stopping in hallway • Provide additional time for transitions • If students are rotating classrooms, desks are wiped between students by the student leaving the room • No large group gatherings • Seating charts are maintained in all classroom settings 	<p>No students or staff in buildings</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 100px;">  </div>

Protective Measures

Low to No Spread	Minimal or Moderate Spread	Substantial Spread
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff and students self-screen each day before starting the day • Water fountains are closed. • Teach and reinforce good hygiene practices like hand washing, covering coughs, and proper cleaning of area • Signs are posted throughout the school and classroom about how to minimize the spread, how to wash hands, and staying home when you are sick • Hands are washed or hand sanitizer used frequently and at the start of school, prior to eating, after using the restroom, after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing, and after using shared equipment • Minimal items are to be brought to school from home • Playground-Students will sanitize their hands prior to going out and after they play at recess. It will be sanitized each day. • Spread desks far apart in the classroom. • Seating charts are maintained • All desks face the same direction • If desks are shared, they are wiped between use • Minimize the use of shared supplies and materials. Sanitize between each use if shared • Signs throughout the building providing information on COVID-19, handwashing, staying home when sick, and preventative measures • Masks are encouraged when social distancing cannot be accomplished. • Protocols established for students who begin to feel sick at school, including isolation rooms in each building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff and students self-screen each day before starting the day • Water fountains are closed. • Teach and reinforce good hygiene practices like hand washing, covering coughs, and proper cleaning of area • Signs are posted throughout the school and classroom about how to minimize the spread, how to wash hands, and staying home when you are sick • Hands are washed or hand sanitizer used frequently and at the start of school, prior to eating, after using the restroom, after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing, and after using shared equipment • Minimal items are to be brought to school from home • Playground-Students will sanitize their hands prior to going out and after they play at recess. It will be sanitized each day. • Spread desks far apart in the classroom. Seating charts are maintained • All desks face the same direction • If desks are shared, they are wiped between use • No supplies or materials are shared • Signs throughout the building providing information on COVID-19, handwashing, staying home when sick, and preventative measures • All staff and students may be required to wear a mask • Protocols established for students who begin to feel sick at school, including isolation rooms in each building • Reporting process in place to track symptoms, absence, COVID cases, and communicate with the health department 	<p>No students or staff in buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure social distancing, case conferences will continue to be offered virtually; however, this must be mutually decided with the parent. Only if the school is closed will the in-person option not be provided for meetings. 

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporting process in place to track symptoms, absence, COVID cases, and communicate with the health department• Only one parent is allowed with the student. Visitors encouraged wear a mask• If something needs to be dropped off, it will be in the vestibule.• For PK assessment, only one parent is allowed with each student.• To ensure social distancing, case conferences will continue to be offered virtually; however, this must be mutually decided with the parent. Only if the school is closed will the in-person option not be provided for meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visitors only by appointment. Only one parent is allowed with the student. Visitors may be required to wear a mask.• If something needs to be dropped off, it will be in the vestibule.• For PK assessment, only one parent is allowed with each student.• To ensure social distancing, case conferences will continue to be offered virtually; however, this must be mutually decided with the parent. Only if the school is closed will the in-person option not be provided for meetings.	
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Protecting Vulnerable Populations:

Vulnerable Populations - Elderly individuals and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised and defined by Georgia in Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools

https://www.georgiainsights.com/uploads/1/2/2/2/122221993/georgias_k-12_recovery_plan.pdf

Low to No Spread

- Establish a point-of-contact with the local health department
- Identify local COVID-19 testing sites
- Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff
- Masks are encouraged for students and staff as needed throughout the day
- All staff and students who are vaccinated do NOT require a mask. Staff and students who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask when social distancing cannot be maintained
- Establish a process for regular check-ins with vulnerable students and staff
- Allow an early transition for vulnerable students to go to classes
- Limit large group gatherings/ Interactions for vulnerable students and staff
- Students who test positive for COVID or who are quarantined may attend classes virtually for continuity of instruction for that short period of time

Minimal or Moderate Spread

- Establish a point-of-contact with the local health department
- Identify local COVID-19 testing sites
- Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff
- All staff and students are encouraged to wear masks at all times - may be required to wear masks
- Establish a process for regular check-ins with vulnerable students and staff
- Allow an early transition for vulnerable students to go to classes
- Limit large group gatherings/ Interactions for vulnerable students and staff
- Students who test positive for COVID or who are quarantined may shift to virtual learning for continuity of instruction for that short period of time

Substantial Spread

No students or staff in buildings



Cleaning and Sanitizing

Low to No Spread

- All staff and students self-screen each day before entering the building or busses
- Soap and hand sanitizer are available throughout the building and in each classroom
- Routine cleaning is performed on a regularly scheduled basis by district custodial staff assigned to that building or area. Routine cleaning includes daily cleaning and disinfecting of all restrooms, scheduled sweeping of all floors, sanitizing of cafeteria tables, emptying trash, and other building based tasks
- Supplemental cleaning is performed by custodial staff over and above what is considered routine. Supplemental cleaning is focused on cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces, specifically for the purpose of preventing spread of disease
- The parent waiting room will be disinfected between PK testing sessions.
- PK rooms will be cleaned between morning and afternoon sessions.
- During PE, the items that were used will be sanitized between sessions.
- Emergency cleaning: The emergency cleaning plan will be implemented at the direction of the Principal in response to an actual infection located at or attributed to a particular school or location or when directed by County or State health authorities
- Upon direction to implement an emergency cleaning plan, the facility will be evacuated and plans for the length of closure will be communicated to the public and staff

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Substantial Spread

- Deep cleaning procedures conducted by custodial staff at the direction of the Principal.



Transporting Students

Low to No Spread

- All transportation staff self-screen each day before starting routes
- Hand sanitizer available on the bus
- Parents are to conduct health screening (page 3) prior to placing students on the bus and have students wash hands prior to getting on the bus. Do not send children to school if they have any symptoms (see page 3)
- Students use hand sanitizer as they enter the bus
- **Bus drivers will wear masks, and students will wear masks**
- Assigned seats and a seating chart will be maintained
- Bus is cleaned and disinfected between each route
- No field trips
- Parents need to ensure that social distancing is utilized at bus stops
- Students will wash hands or utilize hand sanitizer upon arrival at school
- Student drop off and pickup: Parents will remain in the car until it is their turn to disembark or load a student. The student's number will be displayed in the windshield. The parent then will get out to help put their child into a car. The parents are encouraged to wear a mask.

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Substantial Spread

School buildings are closed



Serving Meals

Low to No Spread

- All students wash hands prior to breakfast and lunch
- Hand sanitizer is provided for students and staff
- Staff and students are encouraged to wear masks when social distancing is not possible, except when eating
- No self-serve service available
- Disposable plates and utensils are utilized
- Assigned seating utilized or students will eat in the classroom.
- Seating chart is kept for cafeteria tables
- Tables are spread apart to increase distancing and less students seated at a table
- Cafeteria is cleaned between each meal service
- Floor is marked to space students while they wait to receive their meals
- Food should not be shared
- Students go in small groups to dispose of trash in cans spread throughout the cafeteria

Minimal or Moderate Spread

- All students wash hands prior to breakfast and lunch
- Hand sanitizer is provided for students and staff
- Staff and students are encouraged to wear masks or may be required, except when eating
- No self-serve service available
- Disposable plates and utensils are utilized
- Lunch will be served in classrooms or additional overflow areas will be utilized
- Food should not be shared
Students go in small groups to dispose of trash in cans spread throughout the cafeteria

Substantial Spread

- School buildings are closed
- Reduce contact by providing a week's worth of meals at one pick up
- Serve 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches for pickup in Valpo.
- All staff in masks
- Communication will be provided to parents for how to sign up for and pick up meals



Screening to be Completed **by Parent** Each School Day

A child (or employee) should stay home from school if:

1. He or she tests positive for COVID-19
2. He or she exhibits **one** or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 listed below based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained
3. If someone in your home has any of the symptoms below of COVID-19 or is being tested for COVID-19
4. If someone in your home has tested positive for COVID-19

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

A fever of 100.4° F or greater (please check this every school day)

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Chills

Repeated shaking with chills

Muscle pain

Headache

Sore throat

New loss of taste or smell

If you screen your child in the morning and any of these four areas cause you to keep your child home, please call the SELF school office (584-3162) immediately and report the reason for your child's absence. Additionally, if you have other children attending other Porter County Schools, they will need to stay home as well and you will need to notify those schools. Your school office will help you identify when to return to school and help your child access virtual lessons during this quarantined time.

If someone in your home has tested positive for COVID 19:

IMPORTANT: Notify SELF immediately of any positive test

Information and Educational Posters to be Posted

[View Printable Resources from the CDC](#)



Additional Information and Educational Posters to be Posted (page 2)

Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have COVID-19, follow the steps below to help protect other people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care.

- **Stay home.** Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and are able to recover at home without medical care. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- **Take care of yourself.** Get rest and stay hydrated.
- **Get medical care when needed.** Call your doctor before you go to their office for care. But, if you have trouble breathing or other concerning symptoms, call 911 for immediate help.
- **Avoid public transportation,** ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.

- **As much as possible, stay in a specific room** and away from other people and pets in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people or animals in or outside of the home, wear a cloth face covering.
- See COVID-19 and Animals if you have questions about pets: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#COVID19animals>

Monitor your symptoms.

- **Common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever and cough.** Trouble breathing is a more serious symptom that means you should get medical attention.
- **Follow care instructions from your healthcare provider and local health department.** Your local health authorities will give instructions on checking your symptoms and reporting information.

If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 get **medical attention immediately.**

Emergency warning signs include*:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or not able to be woken
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 if you have a medical emergency. If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the operator that you have or think you might have, COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before medical help arrives.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor.

- **Call ahead.** Many medical visits for routine care are being postponed or done by phone or telemedicine.
- **If you have a medical appointment that cannot be postponed, call your doctor's office.** This will help the office protect themselves and other patients.

If you are sick, wear a cloth covering over your nose and mouth.

- **You should wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth** if you must be around other people or animals, including pets (even at home).
- You don't need to wear the cloth face covering if you are alone. If you can't put on a cloth face covering (because of trouble breathing for example), cover your coughs and sneezes in some other way. Try to stay at least 6 feet away from other people. This will help protect the people around you.

Note: During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical grade facemasks are reserved for healthcare workers and some first responders. You may need to make a cloth face covering using a scarf or bandana.



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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others



Know about COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.



Know how COVID-19 is spread

- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



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Practice social distancing

- Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.
- If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.
- Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.



Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.
- If you need medical attention, call ahead.



Know your risk for severe illness

- Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Additional Information and Educational Posters to be Posted (page 3)

How to Protect Yourself and Others

Print Resources Web Page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html>

Know how it spreads



- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - » Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - » Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
 - » These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
 - » Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Everyone should

Clean your hands often



- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.** Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact



- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Stay at home as much as possible.**
- **Put distance between yourself and other people.**
 - » Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - » This is especially important for **people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.** www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html

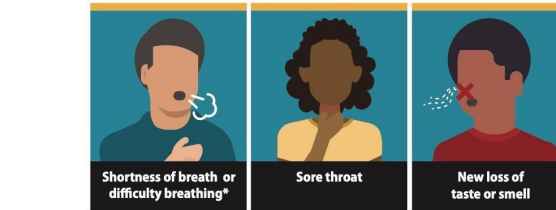


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Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

***Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

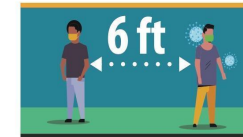


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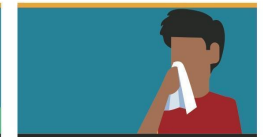
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Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.



When in public, wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth.



Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



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