



## FAQs: Sick Siblings

*Please contact your school nurse with any questions as recommendations from the State Department of Public Health continue to evolve.*

### **When a sibling has symptoms and pending COVID test results, do all the siblings need to remain home even if the siblings are asymptomatic?**

Not at this time. The family should make an effort to keep any ill children separated from the rest of the family to reduce potential exposure. However as long as the well siblings remain asymptomatic, they can continue to attend school while their ill sibling awaits a test.

- If a household has multiple children, and one sibling has some symptoms, but there is no known close contact with a confirmed case, then the other siblings can continue to attend school as long as they remain symptom free. The sick sibling should isolate away from the other siblings while waiting for test results.
- If anyone is a KNOWN CLOSE CONTACT to a confirmed case:
  - they should be out of school.
  - then the sick sibling is considered a probable case. Their siblings should be tested and stay home out of an abundance of caution while waiting for the test results.

## **When a sibling has been identified as a close contact (quarantined for 14 days) and their COVID test results are pending, do all the siblings need to remain home ?**

No. At this time, the siblings are considered contacts of a contact. As long as the sibling in quarantine is not a case (they do not develop any symptoms nor do they test positive), then the non-quarantining siblings can continue to attend school.

The siblings should separate from the quarantining individual as much as possible during this time to reduce their chances of exposure should the quarantining child become ill themselves.

### **Can siblings attend school if:**

- **a sibling is under quarantine due to a known exposure to a confirmed case and is now symptomatic?**

Exposed siblings should stay home while tests are pending.

- **a sibling is generally symptomatic but has not had any known exposure to COVID-19?**

Yes, the siblings can attend school.

- **a sibling has been identified as a close contact and is asymptomatic?**

Yes, then siblings can attend school.

**In all scenarios, we would encourage any family who has a child under quarantine or a child who develops symptoms to do their best to separate that child from the rest of the family including siblings.**