



# East Linn Christian Schools

## Screening for COVID-19 Policy

Updated November 2, 2020

Symptom screening will identify only that a person might be sick, not that the person necessarily has COVID-19. There is no symptom or set of symptoms that occurs only in children diagnosed with COVID-19.

When in doubt, the student should always be sent home. Refer to [When in doubt, stay home policy](#), [Exclusion from School Policy](#), and [I need to stay home if...](#)

- Many symptoms of COVID-19 are also symptoms of common illnesses like cold and flu. For example, fever and cough are the most common symptoms reported in children with COVID-19 and are present with many infections. The overlap between symptoms of COVID-19 and other common infectious illnesses means that some people with COVID-19 symptoms could have something else. This could be true even more often in young children because they typically have multiple viral illnesses each year.
- Students with chronic conditions like asthma or allergies might have symptoms such as cough or nasal congestion without having an infectious illness. Children with other chronic illnesses such as those that affect the stomach or intestines (e.g., Crohn's disease or irritable bowel syndrome) might also experience symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea that can be confused with symptoms of COVID-19. For many students with chronic medical conditions, symptoms might reoccur frequently throughout the year.
- Because many COVID-19 symptoms are present in other illnesses, symptom screenings have the potential to exclude students from school repeatedly even though they do not have COVID-19 or another contagious illness, particularly when those screenings evaluate for multiple or all known COVID-19 symptoms.

**Table. Many symptoms of COVID-19 are also present in common illnesses**

Symptoms of COVID-19	Strep Throat	Common Cold	Flu	Asthma	Seasonal Allergies
Fever or chills	x		x		
Cough		x	x	x	x
Sour throat	x	x	x		x
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing				x	
Fatigue		x	x	x	x
Diarrhea	x		x		
Congestion or runny nose		x	x		x
Muscle or body aches	x	x	x		