



Mrs. Bethany Briskar, RN, CSN  
School Nurse  
516 Allport Cutoff  
Morrisdale PA, 16858  
814.345.5627x5000 814.345.3913  
[www.westbranch.org](http://www.westbranch.org)

Michelle Dutrow, Superintendent

## **COVID-19 Information for Parents** *from the School Nurse*

### **(FAQ's)**

#### ***When should I keep my child home from school?***

● When they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms that are not associated with any other known illness. Only ONE of the following symptoms is enough of a sign that the CDC recommends keeping your child home:

- fever (temp above 100.3 degrees F)
- cough
- shortness of breath
- difficulty breathing
- or two of the following:
  - sore throat
  - runny nose/congestion
  - chills
  - new lack of smell or taste
  - muscle pain
  - nausea or vomiting
  - headache
  - diarrhea

#### ***Should I notify the school of potential exposures outside of school?***

- Please keep your child home and contact the school nurse if your child has been in close contact with a family member or person who has tested positive for COVID-19 OR if you have been contacted by the Department of Health (DOH) contact tracer and have been asked to quarantine.
- Any student/staff who is asked to quarantine by a contact tracer must be cleared to return to school by the DOH.

#### ***What happens if my child is sent home ill from school?***

- If your child is sent home with a fever (over 100.3 degrees F) and COVID-19 symptoms, you shall be required to provide a doctor's note and/or a release from the Department of Health to return to school.

#### ***What happens if my child tests positive?***

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, the Department of Health (DOH) nurse will contact you. You will follow their protocol for contact tracing, quarantine, and return to school plan.

- If a student or staff member tests positive, they will be required to provide a release from his/her doctor and/or DOH to return to school.

### ***What happens if someone (student or staff) in my child's classroom tests positive for COVID-19?***

- If there is a positive case within the school district, the Department of Health (DOH) will contact the school. We will be asked to provide names and contact numbers for students/staff who are considered a close contact of the positive case for a certain length of time. This is part of the contact tracing guidelines for the health and safety of all students and staff and no additional personal information will be given.
- At that point, the Department of Health will direct the school to follow a specified procedure/protocol. West Branch Area School District will follow all current DOH/PDE guidelines concerning cleaning, school closures, communication with the school community, etc. This may include one or more of the following:
  - Vigilant symptom monitoring
  - Quarantine
  - Temporary classroom closures for disinfecting/cleaning
- Students and staff will be required to provide a doctor's note and/or a release from the Department of Health before returning to school following a positive test.

### ***How will students return to school following Covid-related absences?***

- Doctor's notes and/or DOH releases must be either emailed/faxed directly to the school OR delivered in person by a parent or guardian to the office.
- Students must be transported to the school by parents/guardians and report to the office before returning to classes.

### ***Will my child still be able to receive required medications and health services during the school day?***

- Yes, there will be a separate "well" room in the nurse's office for medication administration and first aid care. There will also be a sick area and a separate room for isolation.

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Any questions or concerns may be directed to the school nurse Mrs. Bethany Briskar.

(Email is preferred)

Email: [bbriskar@westbranch.org](mailto:bbriskar@westbranch.org)

Phone: 814-345-5627 ext. 5000

Fax: 814-345-3913

**Please see the link below from the DOH with back to school parent guidance**

**<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Back-to-School-Guidance.aspx>**