



## **UPDATED** Voyager Academy COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

\*updates as of 2/24/22 are in red

### **I kept my child home from school today. It looks like it's just a cold or maybe allergies. Can they come back to school when they are feeling better?**

Anytime a child has symptoms of an illness that include (*fever, chills, cough, congestion, headache, sore throat, fatigue, muscle and/or body aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing*) they will need to get a PCR COVID test to rule out COVID BEFORE they can return to school. Even if it looks like just a bad cold, allergies, or an upset stomach, the current guidelines from the CDC and Durham Department of Health require that a child test negative on a PCR COVID test OR bring in a note from the doctor explaining their symptoms before returning to school. If a child returns to school without this documentation, they will be sent back home.

### **My child was sent home from school today because they aren't feeling well, what do I do next?**

Please have your child get PCR COVID tested and report those results to your child's principal and the school nurse, Ms. Skoff [cskoff@voyageracademy.net](mailto:cskoff@voyageracademy.net). Your child should remain home until you have received their results and sent them to the school.

### **I have multiple children that attend Voyager, but only one of them is not feeling well. Can the other children still come to school?**

*Yes, as long as the other children are currently symptom free.* Voyager's updated protocols reflect the recent NCDHHS and DDH guidance that no longer excludes asymptomatic children, regardless of vaccination status, from school even if they have had a potential or known exposure to COVID-19. However, should any child develop new symptoms, please keep them home and get them tested.

### **I'm a parent and am not feeling well. But my children feel fine and don't have any symptoms. Can my children still come to school?**

*Yes, as long as your children are currently symptom free.* Voyager's updated protocols reflect the recent NCDHHS and DDH guidance that no longer excludes asymptomatic children, regardless of vaccination status, from school even if they have had a potential or known exposure to COVID-19. However, should any child develop new symptoms, please keep them home and get them tested.

### **I have one child that just tested positive for COVID-19. But my other children that attend Voyager feel fine and don't have any symptoms. Can they still come to school?**

*Yes, as long as the other children are symptom free.* Voyager's updated protocols reflect the recent NCDHHS and DDH guidance that no longer excludes asymptomatic children, regardless of vaccination status, from school even if they have had a potential or known exposure to COVID-19. However, should any child develop new symptoms, please keep them home and get them tested.

### **What does “fully vaccinated” mean?**

“Fully vaccinated” students are those students who have received BOTH doses of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine AND it has been at least (2) weeks since their second dose. **If it has been more than 5 months since your child received their second dose, it is HIGHLY recommended that they get a booster.**

### **What is the difference between a PCR test and a rapid antigen test?**

Rapid antigen tests detect protein fragments specific to the coronavirus. A PCR test detects genetic material that is specific to the coronavirus. PCR testing is considered the “gold standard” in SARS-CoV-2 detection and is the **only** test result type that Voyager Academy will accept in order for a child to return to school after having symptoms of an illness.

### **I did an at-home COVID test and the result was negative. Can my child come back to school?**

No. If your child has been staying home with symptoms of an illness, Voyager Academy will only accept a PCR COVID test result. Your child may not return to school with only a negative at-home test or rapid antigen test result. If your child returns to school after an illness WITHOUT a PCR COVID test result, they will be immediately sent home.

### **I was notified that my child has been exposed to COVID-19. What do I do?**

**If your child is NOT currently experiencing any symptoms, they do not need to quarantine from school.**

**However, out of an abundance of caution, Voyager Academy will allow students to stay home for 5 days after a known exposure to COVID-19 if the family chooses. Parents should reach out to their child's school principal and teachers to let them know that the student will be staying home. Parents should plan to have their child complete all daily assignments and attendance during this time.**

**Voyager Academy will also offer on-campus, optional 5-day post exposure rapid antigen testing for students that are asymptomatic AND have had a recent, known exposure to COVID-19. Please email the school nurse, Mrs. Skoff [cskoff@voyageracademy.net](mailto:cskoff@voyageracademy.net), for additional details or to request this service.**

### **While my child is staying home for their **5-day isolation period** or while they are awaiting test results, can they still do their school work?**

Yes. Please reach out to your child's teacher(s) for the link for at-home attendance and school work assigned each day.

### **Who else can I contact if I have questions about COVID-19?**

You can reach out to the school nurse, Ms. Skoff [cskoff@voyageracademy.net](mailto:cskoff@voyageracademy.net), your child's principal, or the Durham Department of Health COVID Hotline number 919-560-9217.