Voyager Academy Sick Child & Respiratory Illness Guidelines

Voyager Academy follows the NCDHHS Prevention and CDC policies that require that a student MUST stay home from school in cases of certain symptoms and/or reportable communicable diseases.

FEVER/DIARRHEA/VOMITING:

- If a student experiences **fever** (temperature above 100.4F), **vomiting**, or **diarrhea** during the school day, the parent/guardian will be notified and asked to pick up the student as soon as possible.
- If a student has any of the above symptoms and has NOT visited a healthcare provider for diagnosis and/or treatment, the student MUST remain home and may not return to school until it has been **at least 24 hours** since the LAST time they experienced an episode of vomiting, diarrhea and/or had a temperature above 100.4F (without medication)
- Parents/guardians should NOT give students fever-reducing medications and then send them to school.

MOST COMMON REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE ILLNESSES IN SCHOOLS & RETURN TIMELINES:

- **COVID-19 & Influenza (flu):** Student may return to school once they have been **fever-free* without medication for at least 24 hours and they are feeling well enough to participate during school learning.

- **Strep Throat (Streptococcal and Staphylococcus infections):** Student must stay home from school until they have been treated with a prescription antibiotic for 24 hours and have been **fever-free* without medication for at least 24 hours.

- **Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)**: A student exhibiting symptoms of pink eye should avoid touching their eyes and face and practice good hand hygiene. Student *may* be excused from school if symptoms prevent the child from participating in the school day.

- For additional information on other school reportable illnesses and Student Health & Wellness please refer to the 2024-2025 Voyager Academy Parent Handbook.

"Fever-free**"* means a temperature less than 100.4F without the use of fever-reducing medication like Tylenol or Motrin.

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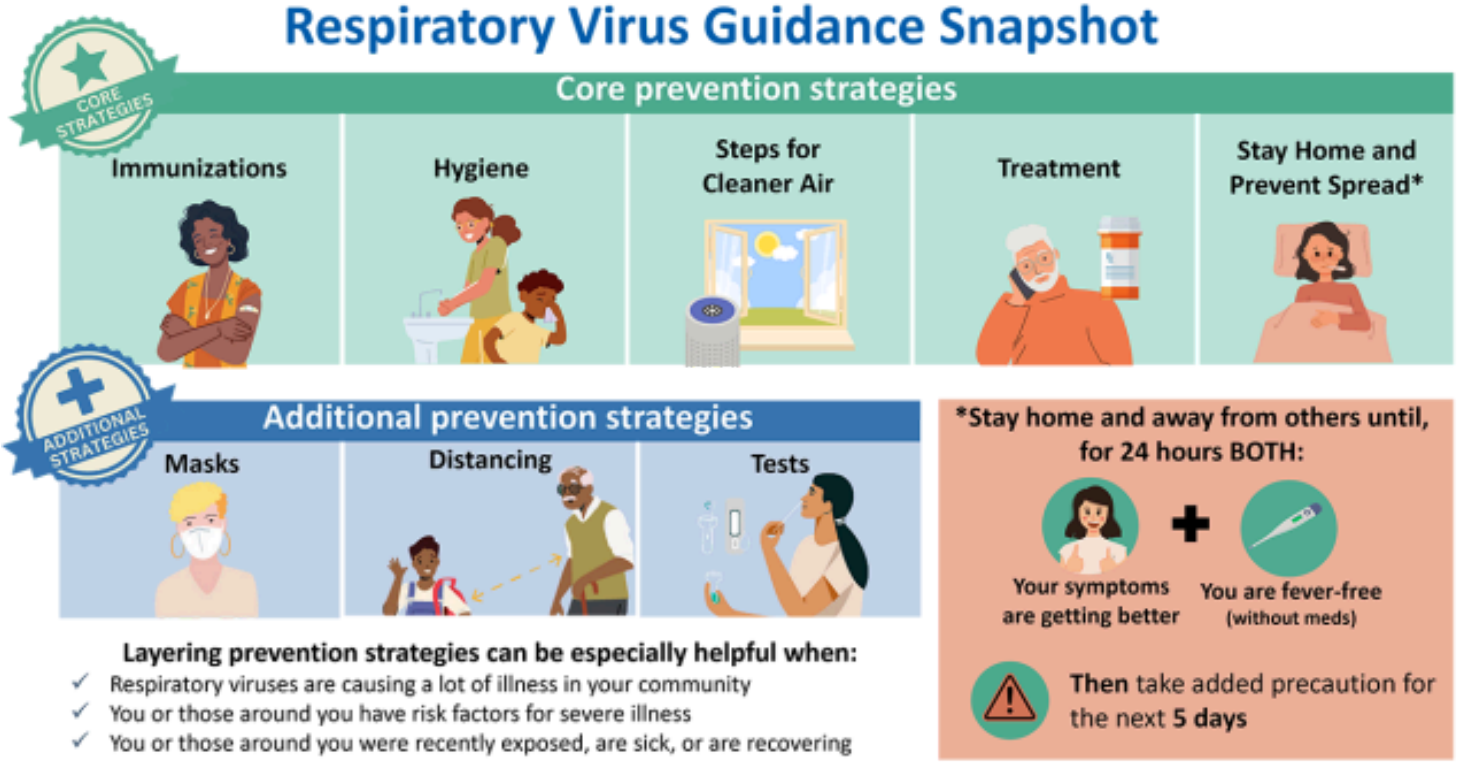
COVID-19 & RESPIRATORY ILLNESS GUIDANCE:

The CDC recommends testing for people with symptoms of respiratory illness *as soon as possible after symptoms begin*. Testing for respiratory viruses can help a person decide what to do next, like getting treatment to reduce risk of severe illness and taking steps to lower chances of spreading the virus to others. It is the responsibility of the parent to take the child for diagnosis and treatment from a healthcare provider.

Symptoms of Respiratory Illnesses:

• **temperature above 100.4F****	• fatigue, muscle or body aches
• cough	• **nausea or vomiting****
• headache	• **diarrhea****
• sore throat	• shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
• congestion or runny nose	• new loss of taste or smell



Who do I notify about my student's diagnosis/positive test results for reportable illnesses like COVID-19, strep throat, and flu?

- your student's homebase teacher
- the school nurse, Mrs. Skoff cskoff@voyageracademy.net
- the front office administrative assistant