

11/ 2020

EEB1 Covid case procedures / Integrating SCIENSANO COVID MEASURES

1. Definition of COVID symptoms

A person is defined as a suspect if :

He/she presents **at least one of the following symptoms** without any other obvious cause :

- Fever (< 12 years)
- cough
- breathing difficulties
- chest pain
- loss of taste and/or smell without apparent cause

He/she has **at least two of the following symptoms** without any other apparent cause :

- fever (< 12 years)
- muscle aches and pains
- fatigue
- rhinitis
- sore throat
- headaches
- loss of appetite
- watery diarrhea

OR

A worsening of chronic respiratory symptoms (people with chronic asthma, chronic cough, ...)

2. I am sick at home what does it entail?

A child or adult with COVID symptoms should stay at home and contact their general practitioner. The general practitioner will decide if he or she should be quarantined and tested.

3. I'm sick at school what does it entail?

Adults :

Stop working, inform your superior and go straight home. Contact your general practitioner who will decide what to do next. ! Don't go to the infirmary except in cases of vital emergency !

Students :

- Sick students are sent to the infirmary. The infirmary will decide according to symptoms if they should be placed in a "quarantine area".
- Students placed in the quarantine area will have to be picked up as soon as possible by their parents.
- Parents of sick students will have to contact their doctor who will decide what to do next depending on the child's school level (testing, medical certificate, quarantine...).

4. Implications for children with symptoms of COVID-19 according to grade level

4.1 Nursery :

Children less than 6 years of age are no longer systematically tested except for specific cases (as advised by your general practitioner).

If no test is conducted : the child returns to school in accordance with the medical opinion delivered in the medical certificate.

If a test is conducted :

- Negative → the child returns to school in accordance with the medical opinion delivered in the medical certificate.
- Positive → the child is put in quarantine and may return 7 days after the date of the test if they have had no fever in the previous 3 days and their health has improved.

4.2 Primary :

A test must be conducted → until the results are known, the child must remain at home.

- If the test is negative, they return to school in accordance with the medical opinion delivered in the medical certificate.
- If the test positive, the child is put in quarantine and may return to school 7 days after the first symptoms appear if there has been no fever for the last 3 days and the child's health has improved.

4.3 Secondary :

A test must be carried out. Until the results are known, the student must stay at home.

- If the result is negative, return to school according to the medical opinion defined in the medical certificate. No quarantine.
- If the result is positive, quarantine at home. He/she may return 7 days after the first symptoms appear if he/she has had no fever for the last 3 days and if there is a clear improvement in his health.

5 What are the implications if there is a positive case in the class?

5.1 Nursery and Primary :

- The class continues its normal activities and parents are notified of a case;
- No testing nor quarantine for the other students and teachers in the class;
- Maintained alertness towards the symptoms of the students and adults in the class. If they develop symptoms, they should be quarantined, tested, and notify the school of the result.

5.2 Secondary :

a) Low risk contact

Students and teachers who had low-risk contact with the person that tested positive i.e. :

- Wearing the mask correctly positioned when less than 1m50 away
- There was no physical contact with the person that tested positive.

Implications of low-risk contact :

- They can continue their activities normally. The school informs the parents and the teacher of a case in the class or in the group ;
- No testing nor quarantine;
- Symptoms must be monitored. If they develop symptoms, they will have to quarantine, be tested and notify the school of the result.

b) High-risk contact

For students and teachers who have had high-risk contact with the person that tested positive i.e. :

- They have been in contact with the person that tested positive at less than 1.5m without a mask for more than 15 minutes (in the canteen, for instance) ;
- They had physical contact with the person that tested positive.

Implications of high-risk contact :

- They should be quarantined and tested 7 days after their latest high-risk contact (if they report symptoms during those 7 days, they should be tested immediately).
- If the test is negative: the quarantine is lifted.
- If the test is positive, the person is in quarantine for a further 7 days from the date of the test.

6 Measures from two or more cases in class

6.1 Nursery:

When there is a confirmed positive case in a nursery class and within 14 days another child in the same class develops symptoms, this second child must be tested.

If the test comes back positive, it is a cluster and the class must be closed.

The other children in the class will not be tested as long as they are asymptomatic, therefore their quarantine will last 10 days.

On the other hand, those who develop symptoms will then be tested and the results of their test will determine the quarantine of their loved ones.

The adult staff of the class will be tested on the 7th day. If the test comes back negative, the quarantine will be lifted directly. If the test comes back positive, they will be isolated for an additional 7 days from the date of the test.

6.2 Primary

If there are 2 cases (pupil - pupil or pupil - teacher) and it is suspected that the cases are linked, it is a cluster and the class will be closed.

Students will be placed in quarantine for a minimum of 7 days. A test will be carried out on the 7th day.

If the test is negative: the quarantine ends directly.

If the test is positive: quarantine at home for a further 7 days

As long as the test results are not known, the person must stay at home

6.3 Secondary

There will be class closure if and only if the 2nd positive case is not a high-risk contact of the 1st and if no other possible source of transmission between the 2 cases is found outside the class.

Then, no link can be proved between the two positive cases and it is a cluster:

- Class closure
- The class is quarantined, including the teacher, for a minimum of 7 days and must be tested on the 7th day.
- If the test result is negative: the quarantine is lifted directly.
- If the test result is positive: isolation for a further 7 days from the test date.
- If symptoms appear: a test will be carried out as soon as possible.

Until the results of the test are known, the person must stay at home.

7 Measures in the event of a positive case in the household (a parent or a sibling)

When there is a positive case in the household, all members of the household are considered to have had a high-risk contact with the person that tested positive.

7.1 For children under 6 years old :

If they are asymptomatic, they will remain in quarantine for 10 days from the last contact with the member of the contaminating household (so in practice between 10 and 17 days depending on whether or not contact is maintained within the household) and will not be tested.

If they develop symptoms, given the strong epidemiological link, they will be considered positive and will be allowed to return to school 7 days after the onset of symptoms, provided that they have been fever-free for 3 days and see a clear onset of symptoms.

7.2 From the age of 6 and for parents :

If asymptomatic, members of the outbreak will be quarantined and tested on the 7th day of the last contact with the member of the outbreak.

If the test is negative: the quarantine ends directly.

If the test is positive: it will be isolated for a further 7 days from the test date.

If symptoms appear, they will be tested as soon as possible.

8 What happens to the student's class if a sibling or parent is positive?

- Only the student needs to quarantine and be tested.
- The class continues its activities as usual.

9 A student had a contact with a student who had a high-risk contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19

- No action needs to be taken for the contacts of the contacts.

10 A student had a contact with a student who had a high-risk contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19

- No, quarantine for other family members does not begin until the test comes back positive, unless his symptoms are strongly suggestive of COVID (loss of taste or smell. The general practitioner will provide a certificate of quarantine for the whole family if this is the case.