

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

This policy provides guidance for staying at home if unwell for students and staff.

It aims to protect the health and safety of students, staff, parents and the wider SISD community considering the current COVID-19 pandemic.

This policy also adheres to the KHDA and DHA protocols for returning to school.

It is aligned with the following guidelines

1. Protocol for COVID-19
2. Student's Attendance Policy
3. SISD Sickness Policy for Staff

2. GUIDELINES:

A. KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME IF HE/SHE IS UNWELL OR DISPLAYING ANY FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS AND FOLLOW THE COVID-19 PROTOCOL

- **Upper or Lower respiratory symptoms, with or without fever of ≥ 37.5 , like:**
 - fever of 37.5°C or above
 - cough
 - runny nose
 - nasal congestion
 - headache
 - loss of taste or smell
 - sore throat
 - shortness of breath / difficulty in breathing
 - body aches and fatigue
 - muscle pain
 - diarrhea
 - nausea and/or vomiting
- If a student is unwell, the student must be kept at home until he/she is fit enough to return to school and is completely symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medications and with the necessary documentation.
- Email the **class teacher or grade coordinator**, the **secretary to the section**, as well as health@sisd.ae, explaining your child's illness/reason for absence, or fill the [absence reporting form \(SISD Absences Form \(office.com\)\)](#).
- Staff will follow SISD COVID-19 and Sick Leave policies provided by the HR.
- In cases where the student had symptoms related to COVID-19 (Influenza-like symptoms), parents would have to **provide a negative PCR test as well as a medical clearance certificate for their child** from their DHA licensed doctor.
- The child or staff **will not be allowed back in school** without a medical certificate / medical note / sick leave detailing that the child/staff is fit to return to school.

➤ Protocol for a Suspected / Symptomatic Case (Student / Staff)

1. **Keep the child / person home and do not send him/her to school**
2. **Seek medical attention urgently from their treating physician, or call DHA at 800 342**
3. **Fill the [SISD Absences Form](#), or email us at health@sisd.ae while copying your child's class teacher (PRE-KG to Grade 5) / grade coordinator (Grade 6 and above) and your child's section secretary**
4. **Do a PCR test for COVID-19**
5. **Obtain a medical clearance certificate from the treating physician and ensure child has completely recovered from any symptoms/signs of COVID-19**
6. **Share both the PCR test result and the medical clearance certificate with School Clinic Team at health@sisd.ae**
7. **Be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to the school, and notify the Clinic Team**
8. **Understand that the Clinic Team will check the child / staff in the Holding Area before resuming school**

B. KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME IF YOUR CHILD IS UNDERGOING A PCR TEST

- **Do NOT send your child to school if your child has undergone a PCR test for COVID-19 and is waiting for the result.**
- Results usually take 24 to 48 hours to be reported.
- Please email the healthcare team at health@sisd.ae as well as the **secretary to the section**, informing us that you are keeping your child at home because you are waiting for the result of the PCR test for COVID-19 for your child.
- Your child can rejoin school once you receive the negative result and have shared it with the Clinic Team (health@sisd.ae) and as long as he/she is completely free from flu-like symptoms.

C. HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS UNDERGOING PCR TESTING

- Your child can resume school normally if a household member is undergoing a PCR test, provided your child him/herself is completely symptom-free.
- If your child develops flu-like symptoms, please keep him/her home, and follow point A for the protocol for a suspected or symptomatic case.

D. PICK UP YOUR CHILD FROM SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD DEVELOPS FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS WHILST AT SCHOOL

- If a student is feeling unwell during class, he/she will be sent to the clinic for a check-up. If found to be showing any of the COVID-19/flu-like symptoms (mentioned above), **the parents will be notified to pick up the student and follow the protocol for a suspected case / symptomatic student, and the parent must refer their child to their healthcare provider to undertake a mandatory PCR test.**
- Parents should pick up their children **within 30 minutes** from being called.

For further queries regarding COVID-19, please email us at health@sisd.ae.