Child In-Person Participation Algorithm
Ohio Public Health Advisory Level 2-4 Counties†

Keep Child with SYMPTOMS of COVID-19 at home:

Any of the following[1]:
☐ Fever (100.4°F or higher)
☐ New or worsened cough
☐ Loss of taste or smell
☐ Sore throat
☐ Nasal congestion or runny nose

OR

Two or more of the following[1]:
☐ Headache
☐ Body aches
☐ New or worsened fatigue
☐ Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

[1]Excludes symptoms attributable to an alternative diagnosis. Clinical judgement should always guide testing practices.

Obtain COVID-19 Viral Test →

Keep Child at Home Until Following Criteria Met:

Positive	Cleared by the local public health department
Pending	Until results known
Negative	24+ hours without fever and improved symptoms
Not tested	10 days after symptom onset and 24+ hours without fever and improved symptoms
Alternative diagnosis	24+ hours without fever and improved symptoms

Keep Child with EXPOSURE to COVID-19 at home:

Exposure determined by the local public health department

(i.e. within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes)

Test only if symptoms[2] →

Keep Child at Home Until Following Criteria Met:

Cleared by the local public health department

[2]Routine testing of asymptomatic children with known COVID exposure is ***NOT*** recommended

†Counties under Level 1 Health Advisory should follow guidance by the local public health department

Nationwide Children's®
When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

Franklin County Public Health

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR
COLUMBUS PUBLIC HEALTH

Version 8/25/2020

RESPONSE PROTOCOL
FOR SICK OR POSITIVE COVID-19 STUDENTS OR STAFF

When Someone Becomes Sick at School

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS or FEVER OVER 100.4°F

1

If a student, staff, or volunteer begins to show **COVID-19 symptoms or has a temperature above 100.4°F** while at school, they **must immediately be separated** from other students, staff, or volunteers. Steps should be taken to send them home immediately.

2 ISOLATED SAFE SPACE
Create a space where the student will wait before they go home. This safe space should be separate from the nurse's office and other areas students are likely to visit.

3 WEAR FACE COVERING
Students should be monitored by a staff member wearing a face covering and maintaining physical distance when possible.

4 CLEAN & DISINFECT
Identify areas exposed to by ill student. Close off those areas used by an ill person and do not use them until after it is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

ACTION STEPS SCHOOLS — **CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE** — **ACTION STEPS FCPH**

ACTION STEPS SCHOOLS

1 REPORT TO FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH (FCPH)
If schools are notified of a confirmed case they should report it to FCPH immediately. A member of the FCPH investigation team will review the information and follow-up as needed.

2 IDENTIFY CLOSE CONTACTS
School should promptly work to gather the list of close contacts for the case starting 48 hours before symptoms began or if the case does not have symptoms, 48 hours before the date of test collection.

Review class schedules, cohort groups, before and after care program, bus information and extracurricular activities to determine where close contact might have occurred.

The names, addresses, phone numbers, of those staff and students (parents of students) should be provided to the FCPH investigation team member when requested.

3 DISINFECT SCHOOL AREAS
The school should perform deep cleaning in all areas where the case was present up to and including 2 days before the onset of the first reported symptom or 2 days before the test was performed in the case does not have symptoms.

DEFINITIONS

CLOSE CONTACT *is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection)*

ISOLATION *separates people with an infectious disease from people who are not sick.*

QUARANTINE *is to separate people who are exposed to an infectious disease to see if they may become sick.*

ACTION STEPS FCPH

1 NOTIFY SCHOOL & CONDUCT CASE INTERVIEW
FCPH will contact the designated school leadership and school nurse.

FCPH (or the local health department where the case lives) will contact the case and conduct an interview. The case will be isolated. The case will receive an email or letter explaining isolation requirements and release from isolation criteria that must be met before going back to school.

2 ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS
- Must be isolated for at least 10 days after symptoms first appeared **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Symptoms have improved.

During the interview with the case, the local health department will identify contacts/exposures who are not other students or school staff (contacts outside of school).

3 MANAGEMENT OF CLOSE CONTACTS
Health Department will contact all close contacts (identified by both the school and FCPH) and conduct a brief interview. The contacts will be quarantined for 14 days.

All contacts will receive an email or letter from their local health department explaining the quarantine requirements and release from quarantine criteria that must be met before going back to school. Close contacts do not need to be tested. If they do get tested and test negative they still need to complete the full 14-day quarantine period.

All isolated and quarantined cases will receive a receive a letter authorizing his/her release to return to school.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR SCHOOLS

If a positive case is identified during the school day, case and contact tracing should take place immediately. Contacts that are at school will be identified and asked to be removed from school as soon as possible.

Stay home. Someone who has been tested and is waiting for lab results should not be at school since that person is considered a suspect case and must be isolated in their residence.

Sick leave and absence policies should not penalize staff or students for staying home when symptomatic or in quarantine or isolation.

TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 SCHOOLS SHOULD

Educate staff and families about when they/their children should stay home.

Recognize signs and symptoms and, if possible, conduct daily health checks of staff and students.

Staff should understand their role in influencing students and instructing them on proper prevention strategies. Incorporate signs, posters, and other methods to reinforce the important practice of frequent handwashing and sanitizing.

Clean and disinfect frequently touch surfaces as much as possible.

Assure students and staff comply with the mandatory face covering order (unless exemptions are met).

Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times.

Franklin County
Public Health

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www.myfcph.org

COVID-19 FAQ for Schools
Updated August 29, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **When should student/faculty/staff member should be sent home from school?**
   See attached Child In-Person Participating Algorithm, the Return to School Screening tool and question 13 for details.

2. **What is the process for notifying Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) of a positive case?**
   Please use the FCPH COVID-19 School Intake Form at http://bit.ly/ReportCOVID to report a case to FCPH. The COVID-19 investigation team will review all submitted forms and follow-up as needed. For general questions or concerns that do not need immediate attention, please call our general information line at 614-525-3097.

   To report violations of state public health orders such as facial covering, prohibited activities, social distancing requirements and other, please use the FCPH COVID-19 Complaint Intake Form.

3. **What happens after we report a positive COVID-19 case in our school (student or staff) to FCPH? Should the entire classroom/cohort be quarantined for 14 days? When should we consider closing the school building?**
   After receiving the initial information from your school via the FCPH COVID-19 School Intake Form (http://bit.ly/ReportCOVID), our staff will follow-up with a phone call. While you are waiting to hear from us, we recommend that you begin to gather a list of close contacts to the case starting 48 hours before symptoms began or if the case does not have symptoms, 48 hours before the date of test collection. Review class schedules, cohort groups, before and after care program, bus information and extracurricular activities to determine where close contact might have occurred. If an entire class is considered a close contact due to being within 6 feet of the confirmed case for greater than 15 minutes, they would need to be quarantined for 14 days after the last exposure. Considerations for building closures will need to be assessed on case by case basis after reviewing case and exposure information.

4. **What will happen with personal information during contact tracing?**
   Any information shared with FCPH about cases and close contacts is confidential. This means that personal and medical information will be kept private and only shared with those who may need to know, like a health care provider. The name of the case will not be revealed to those identified as a close contact. FCPH will only notify close contacts that might have been exposed to a COVID-19 case.

5. **Please explain what procedures should take place if a student comes to the clinic with COVID-19 symptoms. What happens to the teacher in that classroom? What happens to the students in that classroom? Do we do nothing until we get COVID-19 results?**

We recommend sending the child home and that the parent follow up with the child's doctor for a possible alternative diagnosis or COVID-19 test order. Please see NCH screening tool and the return to school criteria in question 13. In the meantime, prepare for a possible positive test by completing a contact list of whomever that individual came into close contact (less than 6 feet for 15 minutes or greater). Ensure that daily health checks are occurring. Teacher and classmates can continue attendance per schedule until positive results are confirmed and close contact is verified.

6. **Who is considered a case? What are the isolation requirements?**
   A case is an individual who has tested positive with a viral (PCR) or antigen diagnostic test, whether or not they have any symptoms. Cases also include close contacts who develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 but may not have been tested.

   Symptoms may include any of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new smell disorder, new taste disorder, fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, or congestion/runny nose.

   Isolation requirements include the following:
   - Must be isolated for at least 10 days after symptoms first appeared **AND**
   - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
   - Symptoms have improved.

   Severely immunocompromised or persons with severe illness may be infectious beyond the 10 days and should isolate for at least 20 days.

   Cases who never developed symptoms may discontinue isolation 10 days after the collection date of clinical specimen.

7. **Who is considered a close contact to someone with COVID-19? What are the quarantine requirements?**
   A close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person had any symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19.

   A contact must be quarantined for 14 days after the last/most recent contact with the case when the case was infectious. **Test results, whether negative viral test or positive antibody test, cannot shorten the 14 days.** *Contacts that share a room/living quarters (i.e., have ongoing contact with the case) should separate if possible, but otherwise contact needs to quarantine throughout the case's isolation plus an additional 14 days after case is released from isolation if they can't separate from the case. We understand this might be difficult to do in household with younger children so in those situations it's consider continuous contact and therefore quarantine will be greater than 14 days. See question 9 on how quarantine period is calculated for different situations.*

8. **What is the difference between isolation & quarantine?**
   Isolation separates people with an infectious disease from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates people who are exposed to an infectious disease to see if they may become sick.

9. **How is quarantine period calculated by FCPH?**
   People need to stay in quarantine for 14 days from the date that they last had close contact with an infected person.

   I. **No Further Contact With The Infected Person**
      A. The last day of quarantine is 14 days from the date when they last had close contact with the case.

Date of last close contact with person who has COVID-19 + 14 days= end of quarantine

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
Last close contact with person who has COVID-19			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		

Last day of quarantine

14 DAY QUARANTINE

   II. **Person Continues to Have Contact with the Infected Person**
      For example, you live with and/or care for the person with COVID-19 (e.g., roommate, partner, family member)

      A. If close contact **can be** avoided, the last day of quarantine is 14 days from the date the infected person(s) in your household started to follow home isolation.

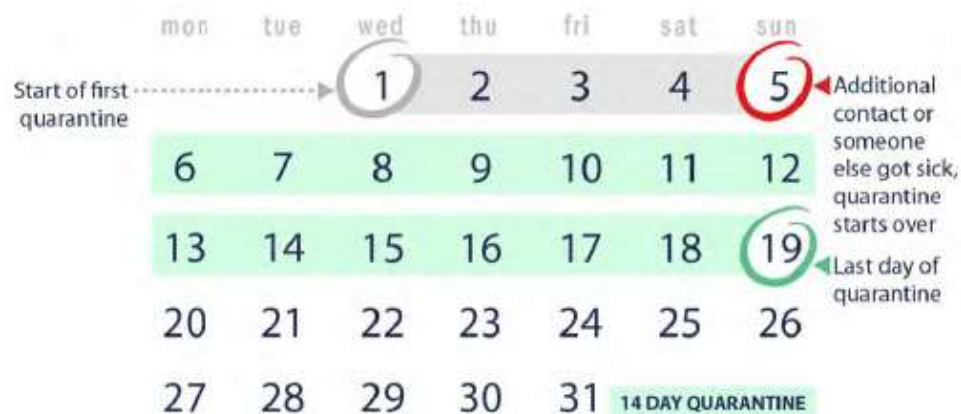Date person with COVID-19 began home isolation + 14 days = end of quarantine

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
Person with COVID-19 starts home isolation			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		

Last day of quarantine

14 DAY QUARANTINE

B. If person **cannot** avoid close contact with the case at any point, the 14-day quarantine period will have to restart from the last day there was close contact.

Date the person with COVID-19 ends home isolation + 14 days = end of quarantine

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
Person is sick/ has COVID-19 ▶	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Criteria met to end home isolation	6	7	8	(9)	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	(23)	24	25	26 — Last day of quarantine
	27	28	29	30	31 **14 DAY QUARANTINE**		

C. If person **cannot** avoid close contact, due to **additional close contact** with another ill household member, then they will need to restart the quarantine. The last day of quarantine is 14 days from the date of contact with the last infected person.

Date of additional close contact with person who has COVID-19 + 14 days = end of quarantine

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
Start of first quarantine ▶			(1)	2	3	4	(5) ◀ Additional contact or someone else got sick, quarantine starts over
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	(19) ◀ Last day of quarantine
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31 **14 DAY QUARANTINE**		

10. **Is a student or staff member considered a close contact even if they are wearing a face covering?**

Yes, people are still considered a close contact even if they were wearing a cloth face covering while around someone with COVID-19. Cloth face coverings are not intended to protect the person who is wearing it but wearing a cloth face covering **may** prevent the person wearing it from spreading COVID-19 to those in close contact. While research indicates masks

may help those who are infected from spreading the infection, there is less information regarding whether masks offer any protection for a contact exposed to a symptomatic or asymptomatic patient. Therefore, the determination of close contact should be made irrespective of whether the person with COVID-19 or the contact was wearing a mask. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html

11. **Please provide details on personal protective equipment (PPE) exposure exemption that strictly applies for clinic staff/nurses/healthcare workers. If these specific staff in school setting wear full PPE (face shield, surgical mask, gloves, gown), will they still be considered exposed if working with an ill student for longer than 15 minutes?**
Specific school staff wearing appropriate PPE are not considered exposed if have direct contact with a COVID-19 positive student. Cloth masks recommended to the general public for use are not considered medical PPE.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html

12. **If I have one child who is sick, should my other children stay home even if they have no symptoms?**
No, siblings would not need to stay home unless their sibling tests positive for COVID-19 or they were exposed to a confirmed case. For more details, see the detailed see Q13 for details.

13. **If I had a sick child (due to COVID-19 or something else), but the child is feeling better, when can I safely send him or her back to school?**
If the student/staff tested positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms, they must remain home in isolation for at least 10 days from the date that symptoms began, must be free of a fever for 24 hours without taking medication, and must show improvement of other symptoms. *Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days from last exposure to the case.*

If the student/staff tested positive for COVID-19 and does not have symptoms, they must isolate at home for 10 days after the test was taken. If they later develop symptoms, then the 10-day isolation clock begins on the first day of symptoms. *Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days from last exposure to the case.*

If the student/staff has not been tested for COVID-19, but a medical professional believes the symptoms are due to COVID-19 OR **individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 without a medical evaluation,** they must stay home for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND improvement of other symptoms. *Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.*

If the student/staff tested negative for COVID-19 but has symptoms with no other diagnosis, the child must be free of fever for 24 hours without taking medication and must-see improvement of other symptoms. *Siblings and household members do not need to stay home.*

If the student/staff has not been tested for COVID-19, but a medical professional believes the symptoms are due to an alternative diagnosis, such as allergies, strep throat or sinus infection, the child may return to school after being free of a fever for 24 hours without medication

provided he or she has a note from the provider regarding the alternative diagnosis. *Siblings and household members do not need to stay home.*

If the child has not been tested for COVID-19 and does not have an alternative diagnosis to explain the symptoms, the child first must remain home in isolation for at least 10 days from the first day of symptoms, must be free of a fever for 24 hours without taking medication, and must show improvement of other symptoms. *Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.*

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html

14. **Who should we notify in the building when there is a positive case?**
    FCPH recommends notifying all close contacts that they should immediately quarantine. FCPH, with assistance from the school, will generate a list of close contacts. FCPH will reach out to all close contacts via phone when feasible. Schools must follow the Ohio Department of Health Director's Order on case notification and reporting.

15. **If there is positive case in the building, who would need to quarantine?**
    Anyone, student or staff, within 6 feet for 15 minutes are longer, would need to quarantine. FCPH recommends that all children have an assigned seat and that seating charts are maintained for classrooms and busses to assure proper identification of close contacts.

16. **If a student or staff presents positive, but 6 feet spacing has been maintained in the class, would the class need to quarantine?**
    No, in order to be considered a close contact and need to quarantine must be within 6 feet of the confirmed case for longer than 15 minutes.

17. **What is the recommendation if there is not space for a designated isolation room?**
    An option is to close off one side of a room as well as repurpose other rooms or space that are not in use at the building. Have one set space you know where you will take the ill student or staff member. It can be a room that is used in case someone is displaying signs/symptoms of COVID-19 and then cleaned after the child/staff member leaves.

18. **A student or staff member is determined to be a close contact of a case and is excluded from school and asked to quarantine at home for 14 days after the last exposure. Should close contacts be tested?**
    FCPH recommends all individuals with symptoms gets tested but asymptomatic individual might choose to get tested. If a close contact tests negative and that individual does not have symptoms he or she should continue to stay home and self-quarantine away from others for 14 days after the last exposure to the COVID-19 case and follow all recommendations from the health department. This is important because symptoms can appear up to 14 days after exposure. A negative result before the end of the quarantine period does not rule out possible infection. Additionally, he or she does not need a repeat test unless developing symptoms.

19. **What is the definition of COVID-19 outbreaks?**

Per CDC, definitions for COVID-19 outbreaks are relative to the local context. A working definition of "outbreak" is recommended for planning investigations. A recommended definition is a situation that is consistent with either of two sets of criteria:

- During (and because of) a case investigation and contact tracing, two or more contacts are identified as having active COVID-19, regardless of their assigned priority.
  OR
- Two or more patients with COVID-19 are discovered to be linked, and the linkage is established outside of a case investigation and contact tracing (e.g., two patients who received a diagnosis of COVID-19 are found to work in the same office, and only one or neither of the them was listed as a contact to the other).

In an outbreak, contacts can be exposed to more than one patient diagnosed with COVID-19, and patients and contacts can be interrelated through multiple social connections, which complicate efforts to set priorities.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/outbreaks.html

20. **What is the recommendation for use of playground equipment?**

It is recommended to discontinue use of playground equipment if it cannot be cleaned between individual use. Social distancing should continue at recess when possible.

K-12 Schools must report COVID-19 cases to Franklin County Public Health immediately.

FCPH COVID-19 School Intake Form
http://bit.ly/ReportCOVID

For general questions or concerns that do not need immediate attention, please call the general information line at 614-525-3097.

Contact Tracing: Do your part to keep your family, friends, and community safe.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO HAPPEN DURING CONTACT TRACING IF YOU HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19.

1

If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, a public health worker will call you to check on your health.

Health Department

They will ask you who you've been in contact with and where you spent time while you were sick and may have spread COVID-19 to others.

Any information you share with public health workers is **CONFIDENTIAL.**

This means that your personal and medical information will be kept private.

2

You will also be asked to **stay at home and self-isolate,** if you are not doing so already.

Self-isolation means **staying at home in a specific room away from other people and pets,** and **using a separate bathroom, if possible.**

Self-isolation helps slow the spread of COVID-19 and can keep your family, friends, and community safe.

3
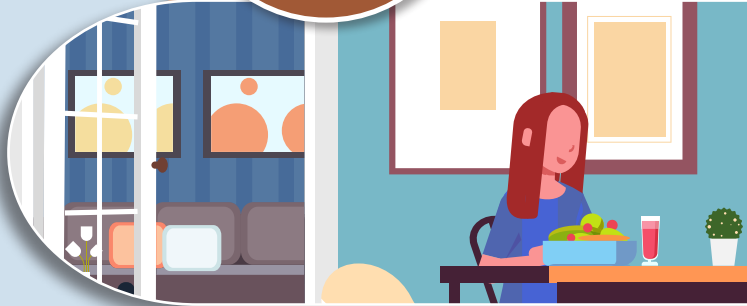
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

If you need support or assistance while self-isolating, the health department or a local community organization **may be able to provide assistance.**

Continue to monitor your health. **If your symptoms worsen or become severe, you should seek medical care.** Severe symptoms include trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face.

cdc.gov/COVID19

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CS317837-A

CONTACT TRACING: WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19

1

If you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, a public health worker will call you to inform you that you may have been exposed to COVID-19.
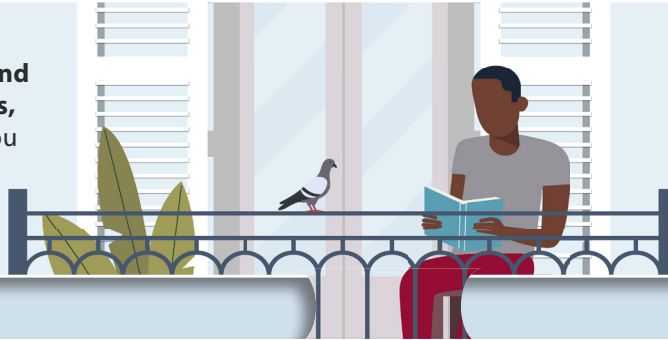
Any information you share with public health workers is **CONFIDENTIAL.** This means that your personal and medical information will be kept private.

Health Department

2

You should stay at home and self-quarantine for 14 days, starting from the last day you were possibly exposed to COVID-19.

Self-quarantine means **staying home, monitoring your health, and maintaining social distancing** (at least 6 feet) from others at all times.

3

The **public health worker can provide information** about COVID-19 testing in your area.

If you need support or assistance with self-quarantine, your health department or community organizations may be able to provide assistance.

4

You should take your temperature twice a day, watch for fever and other symptoms of COVID-19, and notify your health department if you develop symptoms.

5

If you become ill during the 14 days of self-quarantine, you should notify the health department and seek medical care if your symptoms worsen or become severe. Emergency warning signs include **trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face.**
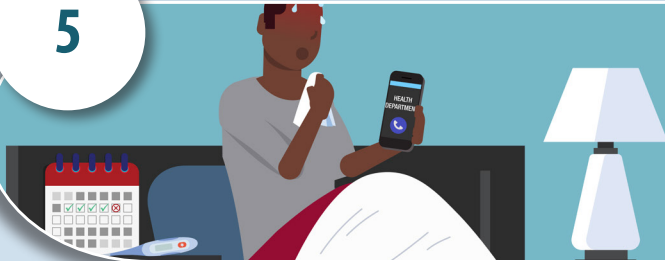
We can all work together to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Do your part to keep your family and your community safe: **Answer the call to slow the spread.**