

Guidelines for Countermeasures in the Case Where COVID-19 Infection of Students,
Teachers or Staff is Confirmed at the Schools (May 2023 Revised Edition)

For the purpose of responding promptly to a confirmed case of COVID-19 among students, teachers or staff, it is important for schools and public health centers to cooperate even in normal times and to be ready to respond in the initial stage, taking into account the transmission of COVID-19 in the region, etc.

These Guidelines are a summary of policies on how to make decisions on temporary school closures, etc., and is available as a reference for schools and school administrators when responding to the regional transmission.

These Guidelines are assumed to be used when each region has no criteria mentioned here, or when school administrators and the public health centers, etc. have to discuss how to respond to an onset of infectious diseases at school. If each region has already had similar criteria, you may follow them.

1. Measures to be taken when an infected person is confirmed at school

If a student or a teacher/staff is confirmed with infection, the school principal should take measures to suspend the attendance of the student infected, and, if the infected person is a teacher or a staff member, the principal should prevent him/her from coming to work using these ways such as instructing him/her to take sick leave, working from home, and exempting him/her from the obligation of working.

2. Decisions on whether or not to suspend attendance or temporarily close the school

In the event of a COVID-19 onset at school, the school administrator usually determines the necessity of temporary closure in part or all of the school based on the advice of the school doctor, etc.; thereby, it is better for the school administrator to consider conditions and the scope of temporary closure when there is a high risk of transmission within the school in advance, and publicize them beforehand.

<Examples of the scope and conditions of temporary closure>

When COVID-19 would have been spreading in the school, please consider suspending the attendance of the infected person, and consult with your school doctor, etc., and consider temporary closure referring to the following.

[Class closure]

- Close the class when any of the following situation applies and COVID-19 is likely to be spreading within the class.
 - (1) When multiple students in a same class are infected
 - (2) When a school administrator deems necessary to do so
 - * Provided, however, that an onset of COVID-19 in a person not-coming to school during COVID-19 transmittable period must be excluded.

- The word "multiple" in (1) above does not aim to focus on the number of students. From viewpoint of preventing an outbreak within a class, even though multiple students are confirmed to be infected in a class, the class is not necessary to be closed in the following cases; if there are no related transmission routes between/among the students, or if the infection is unlikely to be spreading beyond other students in other classes.

- The period of class closure should be approximately 5 days (including Saturday, Sunday, and national holidays). The duration of class closure should be determined based on understanding of infection trend, transmission status, and the impact on students, etc.

[Grade closure]

- Implement grade closure if multiple classes have been closed and the infection is likely to be spreading across the same grade.

[Temporary closure of the entire school]

- Temporarily close the school if multiple grades have been closed and the infection is likely to be spreading in the school.