Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19

This document provides guidance for youth program staff on COVID-19 symptom screening for in-person programming.

Youth should be sent home immediately if 2 or more symptoms are displayed at check in or at any point in the duration of the program.

COVID-19 in Youth

Children and adolescents with COVID-19 might experience different symptoms and varying symptom severity compared to adults.

COVID-19 Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have a wide range of reported symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Screening for COVID-19

If your participant has any of the following symptoms, they might have an illness they can spread to others.

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- Cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Protocols Relevant for COVID-19

All programs will need to have the following plans in place:
- Collecting contact information of the person responsible for picking up youth in a timely manner that appear symptomatic of COVID-19.
- Quarantine protocols to follow when someone shows symptoms of COVID-19.
- Protocols to follow to notify family members when individuals in cohorts show symptoms of COVID-19.

Additional Guidance

For additional information regarding screening for COVID-19 in youth, see the Center for Disease Control's guidance on Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations or reach out to University Youth Programs at uyp@tamu.du.

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