

Dear Yinghua parent/guardian,

Attending school during a pandemic is unprecedented, to say the least! Communication is essential: **Check your contact information in Infinite Campus AND update your emergency contacts so that we are able to reach you in a timely fashion.** If you are unsure of how to update your contact information in Infinite Campus, contact info@yinghuaacademy.org.

Please read on to learn about the new Covid-19-related health procedures that are critical for all parents to understand. To develop these Yinghua procedures, we followed the detailed requirements and instructions given to schools by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

This email covers the following topics:

- Daily At-Home Health Screens
- Reporting Absences Related to Illness
- School Arrival Health Checks
- Sending Sick Students Home from School
- Protocol for Return to School
- Diagnosed Covid-19 and Close Contact Protocols

Daily At-Home Health Screens

Please screen your children for illness in the morning before sending them to school by checking their temperatures and reviewing Covid-19 symptoms listed on the [Return to School Instructions](#). Any child with symptoms of illness or a fever over 100.4 F should stay home. **If the child is displaying symptoms of Covid-19, then siblings should also stay home** until Covid-19 has been ruled out by a medical professional.

Reporting Absences Related to Illness

Parents should report all absences related to illness by using the online [Report an Absence](#) form or calling the office directly. Follow this procedure for all students--distance and hybrid learners alike--if their illness prevents them from attending online or in-person classes for the day. The health office may follow up with families to confirm symptoms and to review the [Return to School Instructions](#).

School Arrival Health Checks

Once students arrive at school, trained administrative staff will check their temperatures and disinfect their hands as they enter the building. Staff will accompany any child with a temperature over 100.4 or signs of obvious illness to the Health Office for a temperature recheck and assessment of symptoms by the nurse. This will be done with care and discretion.

Sending Sick Students Home from School

During the school day, students with symptoms of illness will be sent to the Health Office to be assessed by the school nurse. If a student is deemed too sick to be at school, parents will be notified to pick up immediately. If parents cannot be reached, emergency contacts will be called.

Protocol for Return to School

Families of students absent or sent home from school due to illness must follow the Return to School Instructions provided by the school nurse to determine when their child can return to school. Minor illnesses will follow our regular school protocol of 24-hours-symptom-free in most cases. However, if the sick child is displaying symptoms of possible Covid-19, specific criteria must be met before the child can return to school. Please carefully read the [Return to School Instructions](#) form and the [MDH Covid-19 Decision Tree](#) dated 8/31/2020 so that you are familiar with the requirements.

Diagnosed Covid-19 and Close Contact Protocols

Please notify the school nurse if you have a diagnosed case of Covid-19 within your immediate family or if your children were identified as close contacts to someone with diagnosed Covid-19. Close contact is defined by MDH as being within 6 feet of someone infected with Covid-19 for 15 minutes or more. Infected individuals will need to stay home and isolate from others for 10 days and at least 24 hours symptoms free. Close contacts will need to quarantine at home for 14 days, staying away from any infected family members. Please see the bottom of the [MDH Decision Tree](#) for more details about close contacts.

Please know that this information may change if MDH revises their guidelines for schools. We will update you about changes as promptly as we can. Contact me any time by email or via my direct line to discuss a specific situation or any health concerns.

Finally, we strongly encourage that you limit playdates and social activities during these last few days before school starts. Let's do our best to start school strong and healthy!

Sincerely,

Ginger Hao
Licensed School Nurse
Covid-19 Coordinator
ginger.hao@yinghuaacademy.org
Health Office Direct Line: 612-800-5044
School Office: 612-788-9095