

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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To: All Preston County Parents/Guardians

Date: September 30, 2020

This letter is being written to familiarize all parents and guardians on the current process for students to return to school after being absent or being sent home due to Covid symptoms. This will clarify what absences require the need for a Covid test to be performed and which absences will not.

If your child exhibits one of the following signs while at school or at home, the Preston County Health Department is requiring Covid testing to occur. If your child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, has a **new** cough, shortness of breath, chest pains, extreme fatigue, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, he/she must have a Covid test completed. If your child is at school when the symptoms arise, we complete and fax a form to the Preston Memorial Covid testing unit. If you would rather take your child to another medical provider, please let PMH know when they call you to set up your child's test time. If your child is showing symptoms at home, you may take him/her to any medical provider of your choosing. Once your child has been tested and has a negative test result, this result must be given to the school for the child to return. If the test was completed through PMH and the release signed by the parent or guardian, the result will be sent directly to the school. If an outside provider completes the test, you will need to obtain a copy of the negative result and provide it to the school.

If your child is absent due to an injury, vision or dental appointment, medical appointment that is deemed non-Covid related, surgery, a medically diagnosed health condition, funeral, educational leave or vacation, he/she will not be required to have a Covid test. However, if it is for an injury, appointment, or surgery, the child must bring a note from the health care provider stating he/she had an appointment and can return to school. Just a note from a parent regarding that the child was ill or at an appointment is not sufficient according the Health Department.

We appreciate your patience and understanding through this pandemic. We are working closely with the Health Department to ensure the safety of all our students and staff members. If you have any further question regarding absences, please contact your child's school or the Preston County Board of Education at (304)329-0580.

Thank you