

At school, in order to guarantee the healthy learning of children, as well as lower the risk of infection, we will implement the “New Way of School Life.” Furthermore, while adapting the contents of academic and extracurricular activities to take into account the characteristics of variant strains and the local infection situation, we ask for the understanding of families as we strive to secure the continuance of in-person classes and extracurricular activities to the extent possible.

## “New Way of School Life” Main Points

### Basic infection counter-measures



- We ask for your cooperation in monitoring the health of children and their families living together, including body temperature measurements
- If your child, or any family living together with your child, has symptoms such as fever or cough, rest at home.
  - \*This will be treated as "suspension of attendance"
  - \*Currently, based on the epidemic situation in Hokkaido, if any family living together with your child has undiagnosed symptoms such as a fever, it will be handled in the same way as above.
- Students and staff will be required to wash hands frequently, using running water and soap for at least 30 seconds.
- Disinfection is performed by incorporating detergents that are effective against COVID-19 into regular cleaning routines.



### Avoiding the “Three C’s”

- Ventilate at all times or on a regular basis, depending on the season and climate.
- Keep a physical distance of 1 -2 meters as much as possible.
- Wear a mask when you are unable to keep a sufficient physical distance, or when you have a conversation.
  - \*In cases where there is a risk of heat stroke or difficulty breathing etc., there will be a flexible response in regards to removing masks.



### Learning about infectious diseases

- Children will be guided to a correct understanding of COVID-19 and how to decrease the risk of infection.
- Children will be instructed to take appropriate actions without discrimination or prejudice.



From the MEXT Manual for Management of Safety and Sanitation in Schools in Relation to COVID-19 “New Way of School Life” (Ver. 8, April 1, 2022)

## “Points of extra concern” ~What we have learned from past cases of infection transmission~

**+** Do not attend school with mild symptoms

Applies to the child themselves, siblings, and any family members living together with the child

**+** When eating or drinking, do not speak without a mask

School lunch, lunch outside of school, etc. (whenever you eat or drink)

**黙食**  
にご協力ください

**During club activities, when changing clothes, on breaks, etc.**

# An explanation of "Suspension of attendance" (As of 2022.4.6)

\*There may be changes based on infection numbers

With the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, people outside the immediate family of a person infected with COVID-19 are no longer targeted for the active epidemiological investigation conducted by public health centers\*.  
(\*Some public health centers have not changed their policy.)

The response of schools differs based on the situation of both the parents and the student, so please inform your child's school in any of the following situations.

When a child is infected, other children in their class may be designated as having a high chance of infection based on their recent movement and interaction with the infected student. This could lead them to receiving an individual order to suspend their attendance to classes.

**Designation criteria**  
(Hokkaido Health and Welfare department)

- Ate food at the same table and had a conversation with the infected student.
- Spent an extended period of time with the infected student with no mask, or an improperly worn mask.

	Case	School response
①	A child has been infected with COVID-19	Suspension of attendance until they recover.
②	A child has been designated as a close contact (An immediate family member has been infected with COVID-19)	Suspension of attendance until the end of their quarantine period as designated by the Public health center.
③	A child has been designated as "having a high risk of infection" by their school, etc.	Suspension of attendance until 7 days has past since they last came into contact with the infected child, etc. (Suspension will be ended on the 8 <sup>th</sup> day)
④	A child is required to take a PCR or Antigen test (for reasons other than being designated a close contact)	Suspension of attendance until the results are determined. *This excludes tests conducted privately and those that are not covered by health insurance.
⑤	A child, or an immediate family member, has an undiagnosed fever or cough	Suspension of attendance until the symptoms disappear. <small>However, if the immediate family member has their symptoms confirmed as not being that of COVID-19 at a medical institution, the school will determine whether the child is able to attend school or not based on the local infection situation and other factors. Please contact the school for more information.</small>
⑥	An immediate family member has been designated as a close contact, has a high risk of infection, or other circumstances in which there is a risk of infection	Please consult with the school, as the handling of these cases will be decided based on the local infection situation. <small>*This is not a valid reason to stop school attendance</small>



## Reasons for a Class Suspension



The school will suspend classes if one of the following 3 situations occurs.

- ① When one student has been confirmed as being infected with COVID-19, and multiple other students have undiagnosed flu symptoms
- ② When multiple students in one class are confirmed as being infected with COVID-19
- ③ Other reasons, on advice from the school nurse where a class suspension is deemed necessary by school management staff

## Please talk to us if you have any concerns!

- If you are worried about your child being infected with COVID-19
- If you are worried about the health effects of disinfection and hand washing

Please talk to the support desk at your child's school or the Hokkaido Board of Education Child Support Center.



**Hokkaido Board of Education**  
Child Support Center

☎: 0120-3882-56 (Free, Open 24H)  
E-mail: [sodan-center@hokkaido-c.ed.jp](mailto:sodan-center@hokkaido-c.ed.jp)

## We need your support to stop online slander on social media!

It is said the roots of discrimination and criticism come from anxiety, fear and a defensive instinct towards a virus that is invisible, and unknown. Anyone can be infected, and everyone feels anxiety and unease right now.

We request that you talk with your children and family about what we can do right now.



**STOP COVID-19 Discrimination!**  
Situations Leading to Discrimination  
Volume 2. "At School"  
(Ministry of Justice)