A Student is Showing Signs of COVID-19 in My Classroom: What Do I Do?
Quick Guide for Teachers

Know Possible Symptoms of Illness
- Cough
- Fever
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting

Other Symptoms Include:
- Shortness of breath, chills, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, runny nose, feeling tired, and poor appetite.

Emergency Warning Signs (Call 911):
- Trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, and bluish lips or face.

1. Separate the Student
   - Be discreet and calm.
   - Make sure you and the student are wearing a mask and standing at least 6 feet apart.
   - Following the school protocol, have the student safely escorted from the classroom to the isolation area.

2. Inform
   - Contact designated staff responsible for COVID-19 concerns (e.g., school nurse).
   - Let them know the student is on the way to the isolation area or wait for the student to be escorted (according to school protocol).

3. Clean and Disinfect
   - Close off the classroom and wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting, if possible. This will allow more time for the virus to die off.
   - The classroom should be cleaned and disinfected, especially items in the student’s area and shared items the student may have touched (e.g., doorknob and supplies).
   - Note: Disinfectants can trigger an asthma attack. Choose safer products if students in the class have asthma.
   - Open outside door(s) and window(s) to increase ventilation in the classroom, if possible.

4. Identify Close Contacts
   - Write down where the student was seated relative to other students in the classroom.
   - Note if any person was within 6 feet of an infected student for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Work with school officials on close contacts in accordance with applicable privacy laws.

5. Plan for the Possibility That Your Student May Require Virtual or At-Home Learning
   - Speak with school administration about options for virtual learning.
   - Make sure the student can make up work without penalty.

6. Notify Administration About the Sick Student
   - Assist administration with close contact assessment. Observe applicable privacy laws.
   - Consider learning accommodations for students who are close contacts who may need to quarantine at home.

cdc.gov/coronavirus