

What to do if a Person is Symptomatic at School



If a person has one or more of these symptoms:

- Fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$) or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Cough (new, changed, or worsening)

- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Sore throat



They should isolate at home AND get tested for COVID-19

If they do not receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider **OR** do not get tested



They test **POSITIVE** for COVID-19



They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 **OR** receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider plus a negative test

AND



Isolate at home

They can return to school after five days have passed since symptoms first appeared if:

1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication) **AND**
2. Symptoms have significantly improved **AND**
3. They continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days

Identify close contacts

See **Tree 2** and follow [COVID-19 Contact Tracing Guide for K-12 Schools](#)

Return to school

They can return to school if:

1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication)
- AND**
2. Symptoms have significantly improved



They should isolate at home

Was **only ONE** symptom present?

NO

YES

Did the symptom resolve within 24 hours **OR** are they consistent with a diagnosed chronic illness?

NO

YES

Are they a known **close contact**?

NO

YES

see **tree 2**

Identify and Care for Close Contacts at School



If there is a COVID-19 positive person at school, **is the exposed person (close contact):**

- Ages 18 or older and up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccines?^{**} **OR**
- Ages 5–17 with a completed primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine? **OR**
- Has the close contact been confirmed with COVID-19 in the last 90 days?

YES

NO

NO

Do they have symptoms?

YES

YES

Do they have symptoms?

NO

Remain at school

- No need to quarantine but they should:
1. **Get tested five days** after known exposure
 2. Continue **wearing a mask** in all public indoor settings
 3. **Watch for symptoms** for 10 days after close contact



Test for COVID-19



They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19



They test **POSITIVE** for COVID-19 **OR** do not get tested

Test for COVID-19



They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 with an antigen test **AND** do not get a confirmatory viral test **OR** test positive with a confirmatory viral test^{***}

Is the exposed person a student **AND** is the school offering **Test to Stay**?

They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 with an antigen test **AND** test negative with a confirmatory viral test^{***}

YES

NO

Quarantine at home

- They can return to school after five days have passed since last close contact if:
1. They test negative on or after day five since last close contact
 2. Continue wearing a mask around others for an additional five days
 3. Watch for symptoms for 10 days after close contact



Return to school

- They can return to school if:
1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication)
- AND**
2. Symptoms have significantly improved



Isolate at home

- They can return to school after five days have passed since symptoms first appeared if:
1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication) **AND**
 2. Symptoms have significantly improved **AND**
 3. They continue to wear a mask around others for an additional five days



Follow Test to Stay protocol

- Students, teachers, and staff may do a modified quarantine and continue in-person learning if:
1. They **test negative at least two times during the five days** after last close contact **AND**
 2. Continue wearing a mask around others **AND**
 3. They **do not have COVID-19 symptoms AND**
 4. They do not participate in social gatherings or community activities outside of school

^{**} A person is [up to date on their vaccines against COVID-19](#) when they have received their primary series AND additional doses or booster doses when eligible based on health status and age.

^{***} Confirmatory viral test may be a NAAT or an additional antigen test