



My child has COVID-19 symptoms. When can they go back to school?

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (HCP) EVALUATION FOR COVID-19 (can be in-person or by video/telephone as determined by HCP)

HCP Recommends COVID-19 Diagnostic Test

STAY OUT OF SCHOOL
and in isolation until test result is back

Positive Test Result

Negative Test Result

OR
HCP Gives
Alternate Diagnosis

COVID-19
Diagnostic Test
Recommended
but Not
Done and
No Alternate
Diagnosis

Child is
Not Evaluated
by HCP

Your local health department will contact you to follow up.

Your child must remain in isolation (at home and away from others) until your local health department has released them from isolation, which is typically:

- 10 days after symptom onset; **AND**
- Child's symptoms are improving; **AND**
- Child is fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

While your child is in isolation, **all members of the household must quarantine at home until released by the local health department**, typically 14 days.

Note: A repeat negative COVID-19 test is not required for return to school.

If your child's symptoms are improving **AND** they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines, your child **may return to school** with:

- A note from HCP indicating the test was negative **OR**
- Provide a copy of the negative test result.

If your child's HCP provides a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (examples: laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) **AND** COVID-19 is not suspected, then a note signed by their **HCP explaining the alternate diagnosis is required** before your child will be allowed to return to school. They may return to school according to the usual guidelines for that diagnosis.

Note: a signed HCP note documenting unconfirmed acute illnesses, such as viral upper respiratory illness (URI) or viral gastroenteritis, will not suffice.

Your child must remain in isolation at home and is not able to go back to school until your local health department has released them from isolation, which is typically:

- At least 10 days have passed since date of first symptoms; **AND**
- Child's symptoms are improving; **AND**
- Child is fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

COVID-19 diagnostic testing includes molecular (e.g., PCR) or antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Diagnostic testing may be performed with a nasopharyngeal swab, nasal swab, or saliva sample, as ordered by the health care provider and per laboratory specifications. At times, a negative antigen test will need to be followed up with a confirmatory molecular test. Serology (antibody testing) cannot be used to rule in or out acute COVID-19.