

Return to School Protocol for Students/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms

The purpose of this document is to help schools and parents/guardians understand:

- *When can students/staff safely return to school after they have had COVID-19 symptoms?*

It also answers the following questions:

- *What should household contacts do while waiting for COVID-19 test results?*
- *When can students/staff return to school after receiving a negative COVID-19 test result?*
- *When can students/staff return to school after receiving a positive COVID-19 test result?*
- *When can students/staff return to school if they do not get tested for COVID-19 after having symptoms?*

Return to School Protocol for Students/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms

Student/staff is tested for COVID-19

While waiting for test results:

- **Symptomatic student/staff must remain home from school (self-isolate)**
- **Household members are recommended to self-monitor provided that they have no symptoms. If symptoms develop, these household members should self-isolate and seek testing.**

Student/staff is Not Tested for COVID-19

Student/staff must remain home from school for 14 days from the onset of symptoms unless ALL the following apply:

- A doctor diagnosed them with another illness
- They do not have a fever (without using medication)
- It has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started improving (if they had symptoms)

Negative COVID-19 Test Result

Student/staff can return to school if ALL the following apply:

- They do not have a fever (without using medication)
- It has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started improving (if they had symptoms)

Documented proof of the negative test result is not required to return to school.

*Mild symptoms known to persist in young children (e.g., runny nose) may be ongoing at time of return to school if other symptoms have been resolved and there's a negative test

Positive COVID-19 Test Result

Students/staff can return to school following the direction provided by public health. See ***School Protocol When Students/Staff Test Positive for COVID-19.***

Students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 will remain in isolation until 3 conditions have been met:

- 1) They have isolated for 14 days after the onset of symptoms AND
- 2) They no longer have a fever AND
- 3) Their symptoms have been improving for at least 72 hours

Students or staff do not need clearance testing or medical notes to return to school

Household members are recommended to self-monitor for the 14-day period provided that they have no symptoms. If symptoms develop, these household members should isolate and seek testing.