

Return to School/Child Care Protocol for Children/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms

***This guidance does not apply to high-risk contacts (HRC). If student/staff is a HRC refer to HRC letter from Public Health for directions.**

Purpose: To be used when the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) recommends child/staff should be tested for COVID-19 due to the presence of symptoms. While a symptomatic child/staff is waiting for test results, they (AND any household members) must self-isolate until test results return or other criteria below is met.

If child/staff tests negative for COVID-19

Symptomatic child/staff may return to school if all the following are met:

- Test results are negative for COVID-19; AND
- Symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (and no fever); AND
- Must be able to pass screening tool

Note: proof of negative test result not required

Any household members must remain home while symptomatic person is awaiting test results. Once the person with symptoms gets a negative COVID-19 test result, household members may return to work/school/childcare as long as they pass the screening tool.

If child/staff does not get tested for COVID-19

Scenario 1:

Symptomatic child/staff may return to school if all the following are met:

- Child/staff has isolated for 10 days from symptom onset; AND
- Symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (and no fever); AND
- Must be able to pass screening tool

Any household members must isolate for 14 days from their last contact with the symptomatic individual who was not tested (and be able to pass screening tool) before returning to school/childcare.

Scenario 2:

If a health care provider (HCP) has diagnosed the symptomatic child/staff with a condition that isn't related to COVID-19, they can return to school/childcare:

- 24 hours after their symptoms start improving (and no fever)

Any household members can stop isolation and return to school/childcare once HCP has provided alternative diagnosis above and are able to pass the screening tool.

If child/staff tests positive for COVID-19

Symptomatic child/staff who tests positive for COVID-19 must follow directions from Public Health (i.e. self-isolate for 10 days from symptom onset and symptoms improving for 24 hours (and no fever)).

Any household members must self-isolate for 14 days from last exposure/contact with individual who tested positive.

Household members are recommended to go for a COVID-19 test immediately, and if receive a negative test result, recommended to re-test on or after day 10 of isolation.