What to do if a Person is Symptomatic at School

If a person has one or more of these symptoms:

- Fever (>100.4°F) or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Cough (new, changed, or worsening)
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Sore throat

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

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

They test NEGATIVE for COVID-19 (home tests not accepted) OR receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider plus a negative test

Isolate at home

They can return to school after 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared if:

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

Identify close contacts

See Tree 2 and follow COVID-19 Contact Tracing Checklist for K–12 Schools

Return to school

They can return to school if:

1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication)
2. Symptoms have significantly improved (if symptoms persist, they must get a negative molecular test before returning)
Identify and Care for Close Contacts at School

If there is a COVID-19 positive person at school:

Is the exposed person (close contact) fully vaccinated OR have they tested positive in the past three months and recovered?

**YES**

Do they have symptoms?

**YES**

Test for COVID-19

They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 (home tests not accepted)

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 (if symptoms persist, they must get a negative molecular test before returning)

**NO**

Isolate at home

They can return to school after 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared if:

1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication)

AND

2. Symptoms have significantly improved

**NO**

Do they have symptoms?

**YES**

Test for COVID-19

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

Quarantine at home

They test **POSITIVE** for COVID-19

Quarantine at home

They can return to school after 14 days have passed since last exposure OR 10 days after symptom onset, whichever is longer

**NO**

Refer to the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Guide for K-12 Schools for protocols

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

They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19

They can return to school

They test **POSITIVE** for COVID-19

They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19

They test **POSITIVE** for COVID-19

They test **POSITIVE** for COVID-19

Return to school

No need to quarantine but they should:

1. Get tested three to five days after known exposure

2. Continue wearing a mask in all public indoor settings

3. Watch for symptoms for 14 days after close contact

A person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 when they’ve had two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and at least two weeks have passed since their last dose.

*Close contact: Someone who was within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person for a total of 15 minutes or more within 24 hours during the case’s contagious period. In a K-12 indoor/outdoor classroom, the close contact definition excludes students who were at least three feet away from an infectious student when both students were consistently and correctly wearing masks. Please see the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Guide for K-12 Schools for additional information. The definition of a close contact may vary in some situations. The local health department makes the ultimate determination of a close contact during its investigation, but may delegate this decision if appropriate.

*"A person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 when they’ve had two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and at least two weeks have passed since their last dose."