

# COVID-19 SCHOOL EXCLUSION GUIDANCE

## Decision Tree for Schools

Send home or deny entry if **ANY** of the following symptoms are present:

Fever (100.4°F or higher) **OR** loss of taste and/or smell **OR** two or more of the following symptoms: fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain. This is in addition to [general infectious disease exclusion guidance](#). Parents of children who are ill should contact their child's health care provider. **When there is more community transmission, the likelihood that individuals with symptoms actually have COVID-19 is higher. Therefore, symptom screenings may be more helpful when COVID-19 transmission in the community is high. Parents/caregivers should be encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day.**

### Child is ill, but has seen a health care provider:

#### Tested for COVID-19

\*c

Stay home awaiting test results. If **positive**, stay home at least 10 calendar days from onset of symptoms (or collection date of test if no symptoms) **and** for 24 hours with no fever (without the use of medication) **and** improvement of symptoms – **whichever is longer**. If **negative**, stay home until fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of medication) and feeling better.

#### Clinically diagnosed (not tested) with COVID-19 \*c

Stay home at least 10 calendar days from onset of symptoms **and** for 24 hours with no fever **and** improvement of symptoms – **whichever is longer**.

*Students and staff who tested positive for COVID-19 in the past three months do not need to quarantine if identified as a close contact within 3 months of a positive test.*

*If both the case and their close contacts were wearing a mask at all times during exposure, then the close contacts would not need to quarantine.*

*\*(Green Box) = Other symptoms*

*\*Do to readily available testing all individuals experiencing symptoms are encouraged to test. Providers will render a letter to the individual to give to the school noting a negative COVID-19 test result.*

*c (Teal Box) = COVID-19*

*d (Green box) = Other symptoms*

#### Child has a diagnosis from a health care provider of an illness besides COVID-19 (e.g., norovirus, strep throat) d

Follow provider directions/ recommended treatment & return guidance. Follow the [Child Care and School Infectious Disease Guidance](#).

### Child is ill, but has not seen a health care provider:

#### Symptoms listed above c

Stay home at least 10 calendar days from onset **and** for 24 hours with no fever **and** improvement of symptoms – **whichever is longer**.

*\* (Blue Box) = Close Contact.*

*\* Siblings & household contacts to a confirmed COVID-19 case will need to monitor themselves and quarantine during the case's infectious period (this is typically 10 days) AND for their designated quarantine periods. Quarantine will end 14, 10, or 7 days after the case's infectious period ends.*

**-It is recommended that you quarantine for 14 days from your last exposure to someone who tested positive for COVID-19.**

**-You may be released from quarantine AFTER DAY 10 if you remain symptom free.**

**-You may be released from quarantine AFTER DAY 7 if you remain symptom free and test negative for COVID 19 (PCR or Antigen). Note: the test must occur on Day 5 or later.**

Vaccinated individuals can be exempted from quarantine if they meet **ALL** the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e. ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine).
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

#### Other symptoms not consistent with COVID-19 d

Follow the [Child Care and School Infectious Disease Guidance](#).

**Child was identified by public health as a close contact to someone with covid-19:**

**Regardless if symptoms present or not \***

May quarantine for the full 14-day quarantine period **OR** if you remain symptom-free, you may reduce your quarantine period from 14 days to 10 days. If you receive a negative result from a COVID test (PCR or Antigen and remain symptom free you can reduce your quarantine to 7 days. Test must occur on day 5 or later. Earliest release date is after day 7.