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
- Cough (new, changed, or worsening)
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Sore throat

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

If they do not receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider OR do not get tested

If they test POSITIVE for COVID-19

They test NEGATIVE for COVID-19 OR receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider plus a negative test

Isolate at home

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

1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication) AND
2. Symptoms have significantly improved AND
3. They continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days

Identify close contacts

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

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

Did the symptom resolve within 24 hours OR are they consistent with a diagnosed chronic illness?

Are they a known close contact?*

Was only ONE symptom present?

They should isolate at home

Was only ONE symptom present?

Return to school

They test POSITIVE for COVID-19

They test NEGATIVE for COVID-19 OR receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider plus a negative test

*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.
If there is a COVID-19 positive person at school, is the exposed person (close contact):
- Ages 18 or older and up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccines? **OR**
- Ages 5–17 with a completed primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine? **OR**
- Has the close contact been confirmed with COVID-19 in the last 90 days?

**YES**
- Do they have symptoms?
  - No
    - Remain at school
      - No need to quarantine but they should:
        1. Get tested five days after known exposure
        2. Continue wearing a mask in all public indoor settings
        3. Watch for symptoms for 10 days after close contact
  - Yes
    - Test for COVID-19
      - They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19
      - They test **POSITIVE** for COVID-19

**NO**
- Do they have symptoms?
  - Yes
    - Test for COVID-19
    - They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 with an antigen test **AND** test negative with a confirmatory viral test***
    - They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 with an antigen test **AND** do not get a confirmatory viral test **OR** test positive with a confirmatory viral test***
  - No
    - Is the exposed person a student **AND** is the school offering Test to Stay?
      - Yes
        - They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19
      - NO

**Return to school**
- They can return to school if:
  1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication)
  2. Symptoms have significantly improved

**Isolate at home**
- They can return to school after five days have passed since symptoms first appeared if:
  1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication) **AND**
  2. Symptoms have significantly improved **AND**
  3. They continue to wear a mask around others for an additional five days

**Quarantine at home**
- They can return to school after five days have passed since last close contact if:
  1. They test negative on or after day five since last close contact
  2. Continue wearing a mask around others for an additional five days
  3. Watch for symptoms for 10 days after close contact

**Follow Test to Stay protocol**
- Students, teachers, and staff may do a modified quarantine and continue in-person learning if:
  1. They **test negative at least two times during the five days** after last close contact **AND**
  2. Continue wearing a mask around others **AND**
  3. They **do not have COVID-19 symptoms** **AND**
  4. They do not participate in social gatherings or community activities outside of school

**A person is up to date on their vaccines against COVID-19 when they have received their primary series AND additional doses or booster doses when eligible based on health status and age.**

***Confirmatory viral test may be a NAAT or an additional antigen test***
COVID-19 Contact Tracing Checklist for K–12 Schools

Use this checklist, along with the K–12 Isolation and Quarantine Decision Trees in this document and the supplemental document COVID-19 Contact Tracing Guide for K–12 Schools to conduct contact tracing for schools. For more detailed information about contact tracing, reporting cases, isolation, and quarantine, please see the K–12 Supplemental Considerations and K–12 Requirements documents.

- **Contact the COVID-19 case** or their parent/guardian if the case is a minor.
  - Provide instructions for how long the case needs to isolate at home from school & other activities. See the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Guide for K–12 Schools for information on how long isolation should last.

- **Notify your LHJ about any cases.** If needed, use the School Case and Close Contact Reporting Line List Template.

- **Determine contagious period for the case.**
  - Confirm the dates the case attended school during contagious period and go over their schedule, including classes and other school-associated activities. See the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Guide for K–12 Schools for information on identifying the contagious period.

- **Identify all close contacts** in school and school-associated activities during the case’s contagious period. Some of this information may come from the case but can be supplemented using attendance records and seating charts. Use the setting prioritization guide in the K–12 Supplemental Consideration document and consider the following:
  - **High Priority Settings (Focus contact tracing efforts here)**
    - Bus rides/routes
    - Indoor classrooms where students do not consistently distance or wear masks (e.g., younger children, those with a mask exemption, etc.)
    - Health room
    - Indoor breakrooms and workrooms (staff only)
    - Indoor and outdoor school-affiliated activities, especially those that are aerosol-generating (sports, performing arts, cheer, speech/debate, etc.) that take place before, during, or after school
  - **Low Priority Settings**
    - Indoor classrooms where ALL students, teachers, and staff were wearing masks*
    - Outdoor classrooms
    - Indoor meal locations
    - Hallways/stairwells and other locations used during transitions periods
    - Restrooms
    - Any outdoor activities or locations (classrooms, meals, PE, etc.) except for aerosol-generating activities (sports, performing arts, cheer, speech/debate, etc.)

- **Use the decision trees** to determine the appropriate quarantine option for all close contacts. See the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Guide for K–12 Schools for additional information on quarantine.

- **Notify all close contacts** and parents/guardians of all close contacts. Consider using the phone call or letter notification templates in the K–12 Schools Contact Tracing and Case Investigation Toolkit. Notifications should include:
  - Whether and how long a close contact needs to quarantine at home, or if they are eligible for a modified quarantine through Test to Stay.
  - When close contacts should be tested for COVID-19, what type of test they should receive, and information about accessing testing.
  - What COVID-19-like symptoms to look for, and how long to watch for symptoms.

- **Notify all students, parents/guardians, and staff who were in the same classroom or school** as the case(s), if agreed upon with your LHJ. Consider using the phone call or letter notification templates in the K–12 Schools Contact Tracing and Case Investigation Toolkit.

---

*If students are seated at least 3 feet apart and consistently wearing masks in a school setting, they are not considered close contacts.*