

Return to Learn: Guidance Following a Positive COVID-19 Symptom Screen

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- Only use this tool for students and staff that DO NOT have a known COVID-19 exposure within 14 days.
- Any symptomatic individuals should isolate when symptoms begin and get tested. If symptoms develop at school, assess using CDPHE's Addressing Symptoms at School tool.
- Anyone who tests positive using any viral test type (not antibody tests) should be treated as a case and should isolate. No additional test results can end isolation early for a symptomatic positive person.
- Symptomatic individuals within 90 days of a previous positive viral test (not antibody test) or symptomatic individuals who are up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination should isolate and be evaluated for potential COVID-19 infection in consultation with public health and/or a healthcare provider; this person may require testing prior to return to school.

Have symptoms resolved within 24 hours of symptom onset?

Reminder

- Unchanged, usual symptoms of a known chronic condition should not prompt exclusion

Major Symptoms

- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

Minor Symptoms

- Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4° F or greater
- Sore throat
- Runny nose or congestion
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

YES

NO

Did the person have Minor symptoms only AND symptoms resolved within 48 hours?

YES

NO

Was testing done?
(Individual must isolate while awaiting results)

YES

NO

What is test result from PCR or antigen, including at-home test?

Negative

Positive

- Follow regular Return to School illness policies if symptoms have improved or resolved.
- Adhere to appropriate masking and other mitigation measures.

- Follow Home Isolation for 5 days ⁽¹⁾ following symptom onset and must be 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds.
- Adhere to appropriate masking and other mitigation measures.

1. Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.