

RETURN TO LEARN: guidance following a positive COVID-19 Symptom Screen



This decision tool is NOT intended for cases or close contacts of COVID-19.

A confirmed COVID-19 case or close contact should follow public health isolation or quarantine instructions for return to school/work. Only **asymptomatic** close contacts qualify for shortened quarantine. **Symptomatic** close contacts should isolate from symptom onset and pursue evaluation, including testing. If test is negative, they should complete a 14 day quarantine from date of last exposure. Anyone who tests positive using any viral diagnostic test type (not antibody tests) should be treated as a case and should isolate. No additional test results can end a symptomatic positive individual's isolation period early.

All students/staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested as soon as possible. Symptomatic individuals within 90 days of a previous positive viral diagnostic test (not antibody test) and those who are fully vaccinated (2 weeks after final dose) should isolate, be investigated for potential infection in consultation with public health and/or a healthcare provider, and may require testing.

FOR USE IN ALL DIAL LEVELS

Does individual have new **loss of taste or smell** of any duration?

Have symptoms resolved within 24 hours of symptom onset?

Critical Symptom

- Loss of taste or smell

Major Symptoms

- Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4° F or greater
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Minor Symptoms

- Sore throat
- Runny nose or congestion
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Reminder:

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

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

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

Test result

What test type was used?

Was negative antigen test confirmed with a negative PCR or molecular test?

Follow regular **Return to School** illness policies if all symptoms have resolved or are improving. Adhere to appropriate masking and other mitigation measures.

Follow **Home Isolation** for 10 days following symptom onset and 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds.



To request assistance or provide feedback: <https://tinyurl.com/COP12Feedback>



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