

Can My Child Come to School Today? (revised 8/12/2020)

Immediate Isolation

For those exhibiting key COVID-19 symptoms¹ at School

Isolation Room protocols will be followed and instructions will be given to parents and staff

Parents: Check your child daily prior to coming to school

Staff: Check yourself daily prior to coming to work for key COVID-19 signs and symptoms¹

Child/staff should stay home and get tested for COVID-19 if they exhibit one or more of the following symptoms:

Feeling feverish (Fever of 100.4° or more), or chills
Uncontrolled new cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Loss of taste or smell

Please notify school immediately at (860) 295-6225 if after hours, leave a message

Seek Immediate Treatment

Trouble breathing
Persistent pain or pressure in chest
New confusion
Inability to wake or stay awake
Blueish lips or face
Any other severe or concerning symptoms

When Can My Child Return to School? (these criteria also apply to staff)

Symptomatic Child/Staff¹

With no close contact² with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19

Individuals who test positive^{3*} or who are not tested** should stay home in self isolation⁵ for:

At least 24 hours fever-free **without** fever-reducing medication **AND** At least 10 days since first symptoms appeared **AND** Improvement in other symptoms

*Individuals who test positive should remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school immediately, notify personal close contacts, assist public health and the school in contact tracing efforts

**Individuals who have not been tested for COVID-19 may return to school earlier than the above criteria with a healthcare provider note containing an alternative diagnosis. A diagnosis of viral illness will not be acceptable.

Individuals who test negative³ should stay home until they are symptom free for 24 hours

Symptomatic Child/Staff¹

With close contact² with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19

Individuals who test positive^{3*}, negative³ or who are not tested should stay home in self isolation⁵ for:

At least 24 hours fever-free **without** fever-reducing medication **AND**

At least 10 days since first symptoms appeared **AND**

Improvement in other symptoms

Non-Symptomatic Child/Staff¹

With known **Close Contact²** with individual with COVID-19

Individuals who test positive^{3*} should stay home in self isolation⁵ for:

At least 10 days since date of the positive COVID-19 test

Individuals who test negative or are not tested should stay home in self quarantine⁶

Stay at home for 14 days from last date of exposure

End notes

- 1 **Key COVID-19 signs and symptoms are:** feeling feverish, measured temp 100.4 F or more, chills, uncontrolled new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell. There are other more nonspecific signs and symptoms. For a full list, see CDC Web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- 2 **Close contact:** Spending at least 15 minutes within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19 within 24 hours, or a direct exposure to possibly infected droplets of saliva or nasal mucus (e.g., begin sneezed or coughed on in the face). See CDC web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
- 3 **COVID-19 test for school/work attendance:** This is a viral test, NOT an antibody test. Tests for the presence of the virus must be used. Antibody tests, which test for the individual's immune system reaction to a past viral infection should not be used to determine school attendance (see CDC information on COVID-19 tests at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>). This can include a molecular test (often called a PCR test) or an antigen test. A negative antigen test in a person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or a close contact without symptoms should be followed up with a PCR test. Find DPH guidance on the use of antigen tests here: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/HAI/COVID-19-Healthcare-Guidance>.
- 4 **Contact tracing:** A public health intervention in which the contacts of a person with a communicable disease are identified, and possibly tested, quarantined or isolated to interrupt the transmission of the virus in a population. <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/ContaCT>
- 5 **Self-Isolation:** Individual with signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive test, stays home until no longer infectious for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms **and** until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other COVID-19 symptoms. See CDC web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>
- 6 **Fever:** Measured temperature of 100.4 F or higher
- 7 **Self-Quarantine:** Individual without symptoms stays home for 14 days since last exposure to someone who was diagnosed with COVID-19 (the incubation period of the virus). See CDC web page <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html> or https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fif-you-are-sick%2F-quarantine-isolation.html