

# RETURN TO LEARN: Guidance Following a Positive COVID-19 Symptom Screen



Any symptomatic individuals should isolate from symptom onset and pursue evaluation, including testing as soon as possible. If symptoms develop at school and point of care testing is available, testing may be performed following an initial assessment using the Addressing Symptoms at School tool.

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.

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 prior to return to school.

FOR USE IN ALL SCHOOLS AND  
CHILDCARE SETTINGS FOR STAFF  
AND STUDENTS

Have symptoms resolved within 24 hours of symptom onset?

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Test result

Negative

Positive

What test type was used?

PCR or molecular

Antigen

Was negative antigen test confirmed with a negative PCR or molecular test?  
**OR** is the individual participating in weekly serial testing and will continue to participate for at least 2 additional weeks?

Yes

No

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.

## Reminder:

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

## Major Symptoms

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

## Minor Symptoms

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



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



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

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