

Return to School or Child Care Protocols

When Isolation is Required Because of Symptoms

Updated
March 16, 2022

Note: Medical notes are not required to return to school but all required conditions must be met. There is no requirement to provide COVID-19 test results to the school or childcare.

Child/Student/Staff is Symptomatic and **Not Tested*** for COVID-19 or **Tests Positive** for COVID-19

When an individual is experiencing symptom(s) of COVID-19 (as listed in the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms) and **does not** use a rapid antigen test or a PCR test, this individual is presumed to have COVID-19 based on their symptoms and must isolate.

*If the symptomatic person **tested positive** for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days, they are not required to test again for COVID-19, but must stay home until they have no fever and their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea) before returning to school.

When an individual tests positive for COVID-19 on a single PCR test or rapid antigen test, they likely have COVID-19 and must self-isolate.

Age 11 years or younger OR fully vaccinated

The child/student/staff **must isolate for 5 days** from when their symptoms started, or their positive test date, whichever is earlier. They must also have no fever and their symptoms must be improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea) before ending isolation and returning to school.

For 10 days after symptoms started or from their positive test date, they **must wear a well-fitted mask** in all public settings (including school or child care) **and avoid activities where they would need to take off their mask** (for example, playing a wind instrument or removing their mask for sports). They may remove their mask to eat, while maintaining as much distancing from others as possible.

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |

Age 12+ years and partially vaccinated or unvaccinated OR immune compromised

The child/student/staff **must isolate for 10 days** from when their symptoms started, or their positive test date, whichever is earlier. They must also have no fever and their symptoms must be improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea) before ending isolation and returning to school.

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |

Legend



Symptoms start, self-isolate immediately



Self-isolate at home, except for emergency medical care



Wear a mask and return to school if feeling well.



May attend school with or without a mask if feeling well





Household Members and Close Contacts:

Household members must stay home at the same time as the symptomatic/positive person(s), **unless** they:

- are 17 or younger and fully vaccinated ,
- are 18 or older and have received their COVID-19 booster dose, AND/OR
- have previously tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days and have already completed their isolation.

For 10 days after their last exposure to the person with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result (or from when the symptomatic/positive person finishes their isolation), **all household members and close contacts must:**

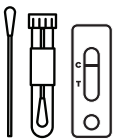
- monitor closely for any symptoms of COVID-19,
- wear a well-fitted mask in all public settings (including school or childcare),
- avoid activities where they need to take off their mask (for example, playing a wind instrument in music class or removing their mask for sports)

Note: Household members already isolating because they had symptoms and/or a positive test result do not need to extend their isolation period if another household member develops symptoms or tests positive.

Child/Student/Staff **Tests Negative** for COVID-19 with Either a PCR or 2 Rapid Antigen Tests

If a single PCR test is negative or **two** consecutive rapid antigen tests collected 24 to 48 hours apart are both negative, the child/student/staff may return to school or child care if **all of these conditions are met:**

- Their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea symptoms), whichever is longest,
- They do not have a fever (without using medication),
- They feel well enough to attend, AND
- They pass the daily screening.



COVID-19 Testing

Rapid antigen tests should be available to all children/students/staff from their school.