

Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements

Scenario	Exclude from School	Return to School After...
#1 No Symptoms	No	Not applicable
#2 COVID-19 symptoms	Yes	<p>Individual should be tested for COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ If test is negative, return to school when they meet the normal criteria to return after illness. ☐ If test is positive, follow return to school guidance for scenario #3 ☐ If child is not tested and they are not a close contact of someone with COVID, return to school when fever free (without medication) and symptom free for 48 hours or after a clinician has evaluated the child and documented an alternative diagnosis and confirmed that the student can return to school.
#3 Positive COVID-19 PCR test with symptoms	Yes	<p><i>Patients with mild to moderate illness who are not severely immunocompromised:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and ✓ At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and ✓ Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved. <p><i>Patients with severe to critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ At least 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and ✓ At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and ✓ Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.
#4 Positive COVID-19 PCR test without symptoms	Yes	<p><i>For patients who are not severely immunocompromised:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If symptoms develop during 10 days, follow return to school guidance for scenario #3 <p><i>For patients who are severely immunocompromised:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.
#5 Close contact of COVID with symptoms	Yes	<p>Individual should be tested for COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ If the student is tested and receives a negative test result but they are symptomatic, they should still be treated as a probable case and follow the return to school guidance for scenario #3. ☐ If test result is positive, follow return to school guidance for scenario #3. ☐ If child is not tested, they are considered a probable case and should remain excluded from school until 10 days after symptoms appeared. <p>*For individuals with COVID-19 who cannot isolate from their household members, the household members' quarantine period begins when the case is no longer infectious.</p>
#6 Close contact of COVID without symptoms- Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated AND either the positive individual or contact were unmasked	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Return to school 10 days after the last time that they had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. ☐ If the student is tested and receives a negative test result, quarantine can end after day 7 if the test was done on or after day 5 and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. <p>*For individuals with COVID-19 who cannot isolate from their household members, the household members' quarantine period begins when the case is no longer infectious.</p>

		<input type="checkbox"/> Symptom monitoring should continue for 14 days. If symptoms develop during 14 days, follow return to school guidance for scenario #5.
#7 Close contact of COVID without symptoms- Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated AND both contact and positive individual were appropriately masked	No	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual can attend school as long as they remain asymptomatic.
#8 Close contact of COVID without symptoms-Fully Vaccinated (≥ 2 weeks following the second dose in a 2-dose series or ≥ 2 weeks following the receipt of one dose of a single dose vaccine.	No	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual can attend school as long as they remain asymptomatic. <input type="checkbox"/> Individual should be tested 2-5 days after known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask in school for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
#9 Close contact of COVID without symptoms who was previously diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 3 months.	No	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual can attend school as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Close Contact

Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.

Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition *excludes* students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.