NYSDOH COVID-19 In-Person Decision Making Flowchart for Student Attendance

Can My Child Go To School Today?

In the past 10 days, has your child been tested for the virus that causes COVID-19, also known as SARS-CoV-2?

Was the test result positive OR are you still waiting for the result?

Yes

NO

Your child cannot go to school today.
They must stay in isolation (at home and away from others) until the test results are back and are negative OR if positive, the local health department has released your child from isolation.

NO

In the last 14 days, has your child:
- Traveled internationally to a CDC level 2 or 3 COVID-19 related travel health notice country; or
- Traveled to a state or territory on the NYS Travel Advisory List; or
- Been designated a contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 by a local health department?

Yes

NO

Does your child currently have (or has had in the last 10 days) one or more of these new or worsening symptoms?
- A temperature greater than or equal to 100.0°F (37.8°C)
- Feel feverish or have chills
- Cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue/feeling of tiredness
- Sore throat

NO

Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headaches
- Nasal congestion/runny nose

YES

Your child cannot go to school today.
They must stay at home until your local health department releases your child from quarantine, at least 14 days.
A negative diagnostic COVID-19 test does not change the 14-day quarantine requirement.

Your child cannot go to school today.
Your child should be assessed by their pediatric healthcare provider (HCP). Call your child’s HCP before going to the office or clinic to tell them about your child’s COVID-19 symptoms. If your child does not have a HCP, call your local health department.

Your child CAN go to school today.
Make sure they wear a face covering or face mask, practice social distancing, and wash their hands!

Report absences, symptoms, and positive COVID-19 test results to your child’s school.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOUR CHILD HAS:
- Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
- Prolonged fever
- Is too sick to drink fluids
- Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
- Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
- Racing heart or chest pain
- Decreased urine output
- Lethargy, irritability, or confusion

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My child has COVID-19 symptoms. When can they go back to school?

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (HCP) EVALUATION FOR COVID-19 (can be in-person or by video/telephone as determined by HCP)

- HCP Recommends COVID-19 Diagnostic Test
  - STAY OUT OF SCHOOL and in isolation until test result is back
  - Your local health department will contact you to follow up.
  - Your child must remain in isolation (at home and away from others) until your local health department has released them from isolation, which is typically:
    - 10 days after symptom onset; AND
    - Child’s symptoms are improving; AND
    - Child is fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.
  - While your child is in isolation, all members of the household must quarantine at home until released by the local health department, typically 14 days.
  - Note: A repeat negative COVID-19 test is not required for return to school.

- OR
- HCP Gives Alternate Diagnosis
  - COVID-19 Diagnostic Test Recommended but Not Done and No Alternate Diagnosis
  - Your child must remain in isolation at home and is not able to go back to school until your local health department has released them from isolation, which is typically:
    - At least 10 days have passed since date of first symptoms; AND
    - Child’s symptoms are improving; AND
    - Child is fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

- Negative Test Result
  - If your child’s symptoms are improving AND they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines, your child may return to school with:
    - A note from HCP indicating the test was negative OR
    - Provide a copy of the negative test result.

- Positive Test Result
  - If your child’s HCP provides a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (examples: laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) AND COVID-19 is not suspected, then a note signed by their HCP explaining the alternate diagnosis is required before your child will be allowed to return to school. They may return to school according to the usual guidelines for that diagnosis.
  - Note: a signed HCP note documenting unconfirmed acute illnesses, such as viral upper respiratory illness (URI) or viral gastroenteritis, will not suffice.

COVID-19 diagnostic testing includes molecular (e.g., PCR) or antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Diagnostic testing may be performed with a nasopharyngeal swab, nasal swab, or saliva sample, as ordered by the health care provider and per laboratory specifications. At times, a negative antigen test will need to be followed up with a confirmatory molecular test. Serology (antibody testing) cannot be used to rule in or out acute COVID-19.