

**Decision Tree for Students and Staff with COVID-19**  
**Symptoms**

**School Exclusion Criteria**

**Student Presents with COVID-19 Symptoms**

- Nausea/Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of smell or taste
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Chest pain or difficulty breathing
- Fever ( $\geq 100.4$ )
- Headache
- Chills
- Muscles aches
- Fatigue
- Nasal congestion not associated with previously diagnosed, noncontagious conditions (i.e. seasonal allergy symptoms)

**Parent Clearance**

If any of the following symptoms were present in isolation (only one of them) AND completely resolved a child may return with a note from the parent only:

- Headache
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches

**Medical Clearance**

If any of the following symptoms were present in isolation a negative test result OR medical clearance is required to return to school:

- Fever (100.4)
- Chills
- Nasal congestion not associated with previously diagnosed, noncontagious conditions (i.e. seasonal allergy symptoms)
- Diarrhea
- Loss of smell or taste
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Chest pain or difficulty breathing

**Public Health Clearance OR CDC Clearance**

**COVID-19 Exposure**

Definition:

Household member OR within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes

Return Criteria:

After 10 days quarantine AND no COVID-19 symptoms (or current CDC recommendations)

## COVID-19 Diagnosis

Definition:

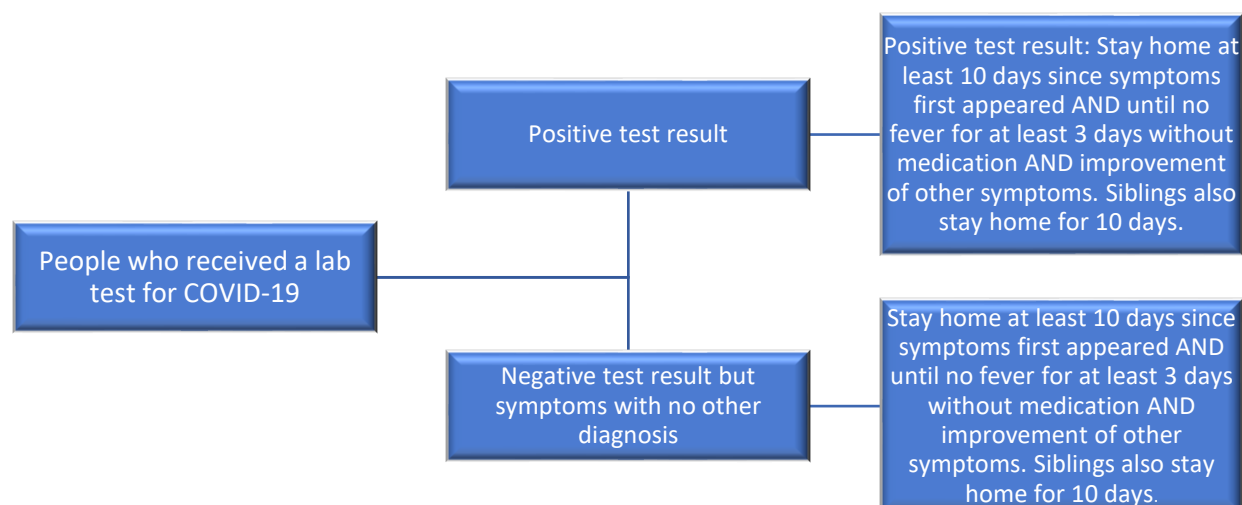
Positive COVID-19 test or presumed diagnosis from a medical professional

Return Criteria:

At least 10 days since symptom onset AND 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medication AND symptoms have improved and are resolved.

\*Siblings also stays home for 10 days

\* If a person has a new symptom (for example, new loss of smell only) with no other diagnosis to explain it, they should stay home and talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19, even if it is the only symptom they are experiencing.



For people with other diagnoses (e.g., norovirus, strep throat) that explain the symptoms, or when a health care provider says symptoms are connected to a pre-existing condition



Stay home until symptoms have improved. If symptoms related to a pre-existing condition change or worsen, talk to a health care provider to determine next steps.

## Sources

[ACCEL Health and Safety Guidelines](#)

[CDC](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)