

MCS Student COVID-19 Decision Tree

Protecting Staff and Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Students should be kept home from school for the following reasons:

Positive COVID-19 test

OR

Symptoms of COVID-19

OR

Close contact with someone highly suspected or confirmed positive for COVID-19

GENERAL COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- **Fever** (temperature 100.4 °F or greater) or **chills**
- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Fatigue**
- **Muscle or body aches**
- **Headache**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Sore throat**
- **Congestion or runny nose**
- **Nausea or vomiting**
- **Diarrhea**

Students out for COVID-related reasons will become digital learners and not be counted absent if educational engagement continues.

Determine if your child should be sent to school and other necessary actions using the chart below.

START

Child has received a positive COVID-19 test

YES

- Notify your child's school
- Isolate the child at home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or 10 days from test if asymptomatic
- Must be symptom free for at least 24 hours before returning to school
- Child must check-in with school nurse upon returning to school

NO

Child is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms

YES

- Notify your child's school
- Consult your healthcare provider
- Isolate the child at home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms
- The period of isolation can be reduced by doing one of the following:
 - Confirmation from a healthcare provider of an alternate explanation for the symptoms; or
 - Child has documentation of a negative COVID-19 test after the onset of symptoms with no fever and improvement in symptoms for 72 hours
- Child must check-in with school nurse upon returning to school

NO

Child has been in close contact* to someone highly suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19

YES

- Notify your child's school
- Quarantine your child for 14 days from the last contact with the suspected or confirmed individual
- If symptoms occur, then follow the action steps above for COVID-like symptoms
- Tennessee Department of Health only recommends testing if symptomatic
- The 14-day quarantine period cannot be reduced by a negative test

NO

Child may attend school

* Close contact is considered being within 6 ft. of a person for 10 minutes or more. The window for close contact tracing is 2 days before the onset of symptoms or 2 days before the test date if asymptomatic. Children with second-hand exposure (i.e., exposure to someone who has been in contact with a positive case) may continue to attend school.