

# Recommended COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs

Settings are encouraged to follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person – regardless of vaccination status – is experiencing the following symptoms.

- **More common:** fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; new loss of taste or smell.
- **Less common:** sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose.

FIRST PATH

**For people with**

- **ONE "less common" symptom.**

➔ Evaluate symptom and determine if person is well enough to stay in school or program.

➔ Well enough to attend or stay in school or program.

Person with symptom returns to school or program 24 hours after symptom improves.

Siblings and all others who live in the house return to school or program.

Siblings and all others who live in the house **DO NOT** need to go home or stay home.

➔ Send the ill person home. Consider an evaluation from a doctor/health care provider and/or getting a COVID-19 test.

SECOND PATH

**For people with**

- **ONE "more common" symptom OR at least TWO "less common" symptoms OR ANY symptom (more or less common) during day 8-14 of a shortened quarantine.**

➔ Person should stay home or be sent home.

➔ Evaluation from a doctor/health care provider and/or gets a COVID-19 test for symptom(s).

➔ Receives negative COVID-19 test result OR alternative diagnosis.

Siblings and all others, who are not fully vaccinated or have not had lab confirmed COVID-19 within last 90 days, and who live in the house should stay home or be sent home.

Does not seek evaluation from doctor/health care provider or get a COVID-19 test.

Receives positive COVID-19 test result.

Siblings and all others who are not fully vaccinated or have not had lab confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days and who live with them should stay home and away from all activities for at least 14 days (quarantine). Day 1 of quarantine starts the day after their last day of contact (Day 0) with the person who has COVID-19 symptoms.

If the person tests positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms they should stay at home and away from others who live in the house (isolation) for at least 10 days from the time the symptoms started and until symptoms have improved and they have had no fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications. If they have no symptoms but test positive, they should stay home for 10 days counting from the day they were tested.

CLOSE CONTACT PATH

**For people who are a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19.**

A close contact is ANY person who lives in the same household as a person who tested positive for COVID-19 OR someone who has been within about 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more throughout the course of a day (24 hours).

➔ Close Contact should stay home from ALL ACTIVITIES during your quarantine period. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated or have had lab confirmed COVID-19 within last 90 days do not need to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms.

A 14-day quarantine is the safest recommendation for people who have been exposed to COVID-19. MDH also provides suggestions for programs to consider a shortened quarantine period of 7 or 10 days. Schools, Youth Programs, and Child Care should determine when it is appropriate to use a shortened quarantine period and are encouraged to follow: **How long to stay away from others (quarantine)**  
[www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus\\_close.html#long](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus_close.html#long)

➔ If the person who is a close contact develops any of the more or less common symptoms and/or has a positive test result, follow second path for people with ANY symptom (more or less common) during quarantine.

*Recommend Testing  
3-5 days for  
all vaccinated + unvaccinated*