

Diagnosis

Person tested positive with antigen test but does not have symptoms and no known close contact to someone with COVID:



If person has a repeat PCR test within 24-48 hours of the positive antigen test and the PCR is negative they can return to school.

OR

If person does not have a repeat PCR or has one within 24-48 hours and it is also positive, the person can return 5 days after the first positive test as long as they did not develop symptoms.

Person tested positive with PCR test and does not have symptoms:



Person can return to school 5 days after their first positive test

Symptoms

Person has symptoms AND has tested positive with an antigen or PCR test.

Person has symptoms but has NOT been tested nor has visited a health care provider. They are presumed positive for COVID.

Person has symptoms of COVID but has received a negative test OR been seen by a health care provider and received an alternate diagnosis.

Person can return to school when:

- It has been 5 days since first day of symptoms **AND**
- It has been at least 24 hours since person has had a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Other symptoms of COVID are improving.

Person can return to school when:

- It has been 5 days since first day of symptoms **AND**
- It has been at least 24 hours since person has had a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Other symptoms of COVID are improving.

Person can return to school when:

- * It has been 24 hours since the person has had a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- * They have felt well for at least 24 hours.

**In a person with symptoms, a negative test is defined as either (1) a negative PCR/molecular test or (2) a negative antigen test if the person has a low likelihood of COVID-19 infection. For example: the person has no known or suspected exposure to a person with COVID within the last 14 days or is fully vaccinated*
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Exposure

Person who **is not up-to-date** with all recommended vaccination for their age and has been in close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, in which one the

Person **is up-to-date** with vaccinations recommended for their age (this includes people who have received their booster shot if eligible, or if not eligible for booster have complet-

Individual who is not fully vaccinated but has been in close contact, with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, in which both individuals were wearing a mask the entire time.

they can return to school after completing 5 days of quarantine if asymptomatic, but must complete 5 days of strict mask use. The 5 days of quarantine begin on the day after the last known close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual. They should test on day 5 if possible.

Person does not need to be excluded from school if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19, and they do not live in a congregate setting (such as a shelter).

NCDHHS does not recommend quarantine of individuals following exposures in school settings if masks were being worn appropriately and consistently by both the person with COVID-19 and the potential exposed person.

*Of note, a person who has symptoms of COVID-19 and has received a negative test for COVID-19 may return to school IF the negative test was either (1) a negative PCR/molecular test or (2) a negative antigen test AND the person has a low likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 infection (i.e., the person has no known or suspected exposure to a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days or is fully vaccinated)

**Interpretation of test results can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antigen-tests-guidelines.html#usingantigen-tests-community-settings>*

**This applies to exposures in classrooms, other in-school settings, and school transportation but does not apply to exposure during extracurricular or athletic activities.*