

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

Student evaluated for COVID-19 Symptoms

Healthcare provider recommends
COVID-19 diagnostic test

STAY OUT OF SCHOOL
and in isolation until test result is back

Positive Test
Result

Your child should not be at school and should stay at home (in isolation and away from others) until:

- It has been at least ten days since they had their first symptoms
- It has been at least 72 hours since they have had a fever (without using fever reducing medications)
- They can present a healthcare provider written note stating they are cleared to return to school.

(While student is in isolation, all members of the household must quarantine at home until released by the local health department, typically 14 days) Repeat negative COVID test not required.

Negative Test
Result

Students should stay at home until they no longer have symptoms. They will need to present a written note from their healthcare provider stating that they have a negative COVID-19 test result and are cleared to return to school.

Healthcare provider gives
alternative diagnosis

If a healthcare provider diagnosis your child with a chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a laboratory confirmed acute illness (for examples: flu or strep throat) AND COVID-19 is not suspected, they can return to school if:

- They have been fever-free, without using fever-reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours
- They have a healthcare provider written note stating they have been diagnosed with a chronic condition OR a healthcare provider note explaining alternate diagnosis and are clear to return to school.

COVID-19 test
declined and no
alternate
diagnosis

Your child was
not evaluated
by a healthcare
provider

Your child must stay home for the 10 days following their first symptom. They must be fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

This chart is accurate as of October 13, 2020. It is subject to change due to updates from the New York State Department of Health.