VDH Algorithm for Evaluating a Child with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure



[This algorithm is for diagnostic purposes, and should not be used for screening testing]

vdh.virginia.gov

FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS



*Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever (≥100.4°F) or chills, fatigue (more tired than usual), headache, muscle aches, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, new onset of poor appetite or poor feeding.

Is your child sick with symptom(s) of COVID-19*? YES

Symptoms new or unusual for the child

Keep child home.
Call your healthcare provider. (If no clinical evaluation see **Return** section below.)
Notify the school.

Symptoms new or unusual for the child

Isolate from others.

Send home.

If no clinical

evaluation, see

Return section below.

Symptoms usual for the child (e.g., allergies, migraines, asthma) or caused by a known diagnosis (e.g., ear infection, strep throat)

Seek care as per usual practice.

If fever present, stay home until at least 24 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medicines

for symptoms

(e.g., chronic condition or known diagnosis)

Fever present

NO

Has the child had close contact** in the past 14 days with someone with COVID-19?



Send to School and/or Child Care

FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES



**Close contact means being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, or having direct exposure to respiratory secretions. In indoor K-12 settings, a student who is within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student is not considered a close contact as long as both students are wearing masks and the school has other prevention strategies in place. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in indoor K-12 settings.

Does a child have symptom(s) of COVID-19* at school/child care?

YES Other explanation

YES Send home until at least

24 hours fever-free without

fever-reducing medicines

Has the child had close contact** in the past 14 days with someone with COVID-19?

NO YES

Normal Activities

Continue

FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS



♦Testing – PCR or antigen (Ag) testing is acceptable. If an Ag test is negative and clinical suspicion for COVID-19 is high, confirm with PCR, ideally within 2 days of the initial Ag test. If PCR testing is not available, clinical discretion can be used in whether to recommend the patient isolate. Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months and recovered and most people who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 do not need to be tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

Clinical Evaluation for Children with Symptoms of COVID-19*

(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html)

In past 14 days, has there been known close contact** with person with known or suspected COVID-19?

NO

Test[♦] (and/or evaluate clinically) for COVID-19.
Isolate at home.

Test[†] for COVID-19 right away. If negative test and no symptoms, retest at 5 days or more after exposure.

Isolate/quarantine# at home.

YES

Consider alternate diagnoses. Once symptoms have improved and child has no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, allow return to school/child care.

Negative for COVID-19 Positive test or diagnosis for COVID-19

Negative for COVID-19 or not tested

RETURN TO SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE



*14-day quarantine recommended. If unable to stay home for 14 days and if no symptoms have developed, quarantine can end after Day 10 with no test or after Day 7 with a negative PCR or antigen test performed on or after Day 5. Those who have had COVID-19 in the past three months or been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are not required to quarantine as long as they do not have symptoms. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days and always follow COVID-19 precautions.

If no clinical evaluation performed

Symptoms present (whether or not they had close contact**)

10-day home isolation. Then return when no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.
Quarantine close contacts.#

No symptoms and had close contact**

14-day home quarantine." If no symptoms, return after Day 14. If symptoms develop, need 10-day isolation and quarantine close contacts."

Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset (or date of positive test). Quarantine close contacts.*

symptoms have

improved, child

may return to

school and/or

child care.

Quarantine for 14 days after last exposure# or isolate for 10 days after symptom onset

After 10-day isolation, if no fever for at least 24 hours and

for 10 days after symptom onset. Quarantine close contacts.# symptoms develop, child may return to school and/or child care after Day 14.#

If no