COVID-19 Decision Tree: Student or Staff with Symptoms
for K-12 schools, child care, and youth programs
Current as of 9/2/21

Student or staff has any of the following NEW symptoms, regardless of vaccination status:
- Fever of 100.4 or more
- 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

Send student or staff home

EITHER

Test for COVID-19 with either rapid/antigen or PCR, or stay home for 10 days

POSITIVE

ISOLATION: Student or staff must isolate from others in their home (if possible) for 10 days. They may return on Day 11 after symptoms started if without fever for 24hrs without the use of medication and symptoms have significantly improved. If student/staff did not have symptoms before testing positive, isolation begins on day of positive test results. There is no need for a subsequent test.

NEGATIVE

NEGATIVE PCR/NAAT or RAPID TEST: Student/staff may return to school with proof of negative test or note from health provider if without fever for 24hrs without medication and symptoms have significantly improved.

Go to tree for exposures in K-12 schools

CONTACT TRACING: Report to public health. Identify all close contacts (who were within 6ft of positive person for more than 15 minutes over 24hr period) on the day of last exposure and for 48 hours prior to when symptoms began or date positive test was taken. Follow exposure protocols according to setting.

Did the positive person expose others while supervised at a K-12 school or on a school bus?

YES

NO

Go to tree for exposures in child care, youth activities, and households/communities