

Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Persons with COVID-19-like Illness in Schools, Child Care Programs, and Youth Camps

For the purposes of this decision aid, COVID-19-like illness is defined as: Any 1 of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, **OR At least 2 of the following:** fever of 100.4° or higher (measured or subjective), chills or shaking chills, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and congestion or runny nose.

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with **1 new symptom not meeting the definition of COVID-19-like illness.**

Exclude person and allow return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication, **AND** criteria in the [Communicable Diseases Summary](#) have been met as applicable. **If person develops symptoms of COVID-19-like illness, follow processes below for person with COVID-19-like illness.**

An **asymptomatic person** (child, care provider, educator, other staff) who **tests positive for COVID-19.**

The asymptomatic person should stay home for 10 days from positive test.

Close contacts should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure **even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.**

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19-like illness:

- **Exclude** person and recommend that they talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19 or whether there is another specific diagnosis.
- **The person should isolate pending test results or evaluation by their health care provider.**
- **Close contacts of the ill person should quarantine per [CDC guidelines](#).**

Person has positive test for COVID-19.

The ill person should stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** until no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication **AND** improvement of other symptoms.

Person does not receive a laboratory test or another specific diagnosis (e.g. influenza, strep throat, otitis) by their health care provider.

Person has negative test for COVID-19.

The ill person should stay home until symptoms have improved, no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication, **AND** criteria in the [Communicable Diseases Summary](#) have been met as applicable.

Health care provider documents that the person has another specific diagnosis (e.g. influenza, strep throat, otitis) or health care provider documents that symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition.

The person should consider being tested/retested for COVID-19 if symptoms do not improve.

Close contacts DO NOT need to stay home as long as they remain asymptomatic.

For an individual to return to school, the COVID test performed must be PCR.