What to do if a Person is Symptomatic at School

If a person has one or more of these symptoms:

- Fever (≥100.4°F) or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Cough (new, changed, or worsening)
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Sore throat

They should isolate at home AND get tested for COVID-19

If they do not receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider OR do not get tested:

- They test POSITIVE for COVID-19
- They test NEGATIVE for COVID-19 OR receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider plus a negative test

They should isolate at home

Was only ONE symptom present?

NO

Did the symptom resolve within 24 hours OR are they consistent with a diagnosed chronic illness?

NO

Are they a known close contact?

NO

Return to school

They can return to school if:
1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication)
2. Symptoms have significantly improved

YES

YES

see tree 2

*Close contact: Someone who was within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person for a total of 15 minutes or more within 24 hours during the case’s contagious period. In a K-12 indoor/outdoor classroom, the close contact definition excludes students who were at least three feet away from an infectious student when both students were consistently and correctly wearing masks. Please see the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Guide for K-12 Schools for additional information. The definition of a close contact may vary in some situations. The local health department makes the ultimate determination of a close contact during its investigation, but may delegate this decision if appropriate.*
Identify and Care for Close Contacts at School

If there is a COVID-19 positive person at school:

Is the exposed person (close contact) fully vaccinated OR have they tested positive in the past three months and recovered?

- **NO**
  - Do they have symptoms?
    - **NO**
      - Remain at school
      - No need to quarantine but they should:
        1. Get tested three to five days after known exposure
        2. Continue wearing a mask in all public indoor settings
        3. Watch for symptoms for 14 days after close contact
    - **YES**
      - Test for COVID-19
        - They test negative for COVID-19
          - Return to school
          - They can return to school if:
            1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication)
            **AND**
            2. Symptoms have significantly improved
        - They test positive for COVID-19 OR do not get tested
          - Isolate at home
          - They can return to school after 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared if:
            1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication)
            **AND**
            2. Symptoms have significantly improved

- **YES**
  - Test for COVID-19
    - They test negative for COVID-19 with an antigen test AND test negative with a confirmatory viral test
      - Return to school
    - They test positive for COVID-19 with an antigen test OR do not get tested
      - Isolate at home
      - They test negative for COVID-19 with a confirmatory viral test
      - Follow Test to Stay protocol
        - Students may do modified quarantine and continue in-person learning if:
          1. They test negative at least two times for the seven days after exposure
          **AND**
          2. They do not participate in sports, extracurricular activities, or any community activities during the 7-day period.
          3. They do not have COVID-19 symptoms
          4. They continue to wear a mask

- **YES**
  - Test for COVID-19
    - They test negative for COVID-19 with an antigen test AND test negative with a confirmatory viral test
      - Return to school
    - They test positive for COVID-19 with an antigen test OR do not get tested
      - Isolate at home
      - They test negative for COVID-19 with a confirmatory viral test
      - Follow Test to Stay protocol
        - Students may do modified quarantine and continue in-person learning if:
          1. They test negative at least two times for the seven days after exposure
          **AND**
          2. They do not participate in sports, extracurricular activities, or any community activities during the 7-day period.
          3. They do not have COVID-19 symptoms
          4. They continue to wear a mask

*A person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 when they've had two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and at least two weeks have passed since the last dose.

**Confirmatory viral test may be a NAAT or an additional antigen test.