

# COVID-19: When a student, faculty or staff member can return to school



Individual	Symptomatic	No Symptoms
Not Tested <b>with</b> Alternate Explanation (strep, influenza, etc. as determined by a provider)	May return to school after 24 hours resolution of fever <b>AND</b> note (including email and fax) from provider stating the individual has an alternate diagnosis and the provider believes it's appropriate for the patient to return to school.	N/A
Not Tested <b>Without</b> Alternate Explanation	Must remain home for at least 10 days from the first day symptoms appeared <b>AND</b> 72 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medicine and with improvement of respiratory symptoms.	N/A
Tested and Negative	If no alternative explanation, <i>isolate</i> for at least 10 days from the first day symptoms appeared <b>AND</b> 72 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medications and with improvement of respiratory symptoms. The test may have been a false negative. The individual can return to school if tested negative <b>AND</b> with a note from the provider stating they believe the patient to have an alternate diagnosis and it's appropriate for the patient to return to school. <i>(ISDH strongly recommends the time-based strategy versus the two-test strategy, which is under review by the CDC.)</i>	May proceed with attending school. EXCEPTION: A known close contact (within 6 feet of a confirmed case for more than 15 minutes) must complete a 14-day <i>quarantine</i> , even if test results are negative for COVID-19.
Tested and Positive	Must remain home in <i>isolation</i> for at least 10 days from the date symptoms began <b>AND</b> 72 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medications and improvement of respiratory symptoms.	<i>Isolate</i> at home for 10 days from the day the test was taken. <i>*If the individual develops symptoms, then isolation time starts on day 1 of symptoms (see symptomatic tests positive.)</i>
Close Contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of someone with confirmed COVID-19)	N/A If an individual becomes symptomatic, refer to the symptomatic scenarios. The individual must <i>quarantine</i> for 14 days after contact with the COVID-19 Positive person even if the student has an alternate diagnosis for symptoms.	<i>Quarantine</i> for 14 days before returning to school. Must remain symptom-free. If individual develops symptoms, then refer to the symptomatic scenarios.

Note: QUARANTINE keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.  
ISOLATION keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.



• Student gets tested for COVID-19 at a testing event put on by a community organization. The student was symptom-free when he got the test. The test comes back positive. The student must *isolate* and stay symptom-free for 10 days after the date he took the test.



• Student gets tested for COVID-19 at a testing event put on by a community organization. The student was symptom-free when she got the test. The test comes back positive. The student starts *isolating* for 10 days after the date she took the test. Four days into her *isolation*, she develops a fever and cough. She must now *isolate* at home for at least 10 days and 72 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medicine and with improvement in respiratory symptoms. The student ends up *isolating* at home for 14 days.



• Student tests positive and has three siblings in the home or as close contacts who attend other schools. If the siblings have symptoms, they should be tested and report to that school if results are positive. Otherwise, siblings should *quarantine* for 14 days before returning to school. Contacts of the siblings are not considered a close contact unless the siblings test positive themselves.



• Student has a fever, cough, headache and loss of taste and smell. The student goes to get tested and the test is negative. There is at least a 30% chance of having a false negative test. Therefore, it would still be required that this student *isolate* at home for at least 10 days and 72 hours fever-free without medication and with reduction in respiratory symptoms.



• Student has a fever and sore throat and history of getting strep throat. Student sees her provider, who does a strep test and exam and believes the patient has strep throat and does not have COVID-19. The student may return to school after 24 hours fever-free with a note from her provider stating she may return to school.



• Student has fever, cough, shortness or breath, and loss of taste and smell. His parents do not want to get him tested for COVID-19. Highly recommend that the student get tested so that the proper contact tracing can be done. The student will need to *isolate* at home for at least 10 days and go 72 hours fever-free without use of medication and have a reduction in respiratory symptoms. Additionally, if the school is suspicious that the student has COVID-19, the school could do contact tracing and monitoring for others with symptoms..