

For Parents and Guardians

When Can I Send My Child to School and/or Child Care?

Answer These Two Questions Every Day Before Sending Your Child to School and/or Child Care:



1) Has your child been close to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?



2) Is your child sick?

Did you answer "YES" to EITHER question?



Keep your child home.^

Did you answer "NO" to BOTH questions?

Send your child to school/child care.

If "YES" to Question 1, see Scenario 1.
If "NO" to Question 1 but "YES" to Question 2, see Scenario 2.



Talk with your healthcare provider and/or your school about when the child may return to school/child care.

^ Until you are **fully vaccinated**, you should continue to take COVID-19 precautions. If you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may not be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. You should continue taking all **precautions** until your healthcare provider says you no longer need to do so. There are exceptions for who needs to get tested or quarantine after close contact with someone with COVID-19 (or after a known exposure to someone with COVID-19); see [here](#) for more details.

www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/08/Evaluating-Symptoms-in-a-Child.pdf



Scenarios for Evaluating a Child Based on COVID-19 Exposure

Child Has Been Exposed to COVID-19

Scenario 1

A negative test for COVID-19 does not change these recommendations.



The child has been close to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days

‘Close to someone with COVID-19’ means being within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, or having direct contact with secretions. For indoor K-12 school close contact definition, see [here](#).



If no symptoms throughout the entire 14-day* quarantine: On Day 15 child may return to school/child care.

If child has symptoms: Contact healthcare provider. Isolate at home for 10 days after the day symptoms start. Quarantine close contacts.*

If no symptoms at first but some develop: When symptoms start, consult healthcare provider, begin 10-day home isolation for sick child, and begin 14-day* quarantine for close contacts.

Must have no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine and feel better before returning to class after 10-day isolation.

*14-day quarantine recommended. (See the ‘Definition of Terms’ section for a reminder about what quarantine means.) 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 prevention [recommendations](#).

Child Has Not Been Exposed to COVID-19

Scenario 2

The child has NOT been close to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, but the child is sick

You already know why the child is sick, and it is not COVID-19

Fever

Stay home until fever is gone for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications.

No Fever

Child may return to school/child care as symptoms permit.

The child has been tested or evaluated for COVID-19

Negative

Stay home until fever is gone for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Positive test or diagnosis

Isolate at home for 10 days after symptom onset (or date of positive test) and 24 hours fever-free. Quarantine close contacts.

You do not know why the child is sick, and the child has not been tested for COVID-19

Encourage evaluation by a healthcare provider and/or testing for COVID-19.

Isolate at home for 10 days after symptom onset and 24 hours fever-free. Quarantine close contacts.

Outbreaks may result in more stringent recommendations

See the ‘Definition of Terms’ section for the definition of close contact.