NYSDOH COVID-19 In-Person Decision Making Flowchart for Student Attendance

Can My Child Go To School Today?

---

**In the past 10 days, has your child been tested for the virus that causes COVID-19, also known as SARS-CoV-2?**

- **YES**
  - **YES**
    - Your child **cannot** go to school today. They must stay in isolation (at home and away from others) until the test results are back and are **negative** or if **positive**, the local health department has released your child from isolation.
  
  - **NO**
    - **NO**

- **NO**
  - **YES**
    - Your child **cannot** go to school today. They must stay at home until your local health department releases your child from quarantine, at least 14 days. A negative diagnostic COVID-19 test does not change the 14-day quarantine requirement.
  
  - **NO**
    - Your child **cannot** go to school today. Your child should be assessed by their pediatric healthcare provider (HCP). Call your child’s HCP before going to the office or clinic to tell them about your child’s COVID-19 symptoms. If your child does not have a HCP, call your local health department.

---

**In the last 14 days, has your child:**

- **YES**
  - **YES**
    - Your child **cannot** go to school today. They must stay in isolation (at home and away from others) until the test results are back and are **negative** or if **positive**, the local health department has released your child from isolation.
  
  - **NO**
    - **NO**

- **NO**
  - **YES**
    - Your child **cannot** go to school today. Your child should be assessed by their pediatric healthcare provider (HCP). Call your child’s HCP before going to the office or clinic to tell them about your child’s COVID-19 symptoms. If your child does not have a HCP, call your local health department.
  
  - **NO**
    - **YES**
      - Your child **CAN** go to school today.
      - Make sure they wear a face covering or face mask, practice social distancing, and wash their hands!

---

**Does your child currently have (or has had in the last 10 days) one or more of these new or worsening symptoms?**

- **YES**
  - **YES**
    - Your child **cannot** go to school today. They must stay in isolation (at home and away from others) until the test results are back and are **negative** or if **positive**, the local health department has released your child from isolation.
  
  - **NO**
    - **NO**

- **NO**
  - **YES**
    - Your child **cannot** go to school today. Your child should be assessed by their pediatric healthcare provider (HCP). Call your child’s HCP before going to the office or clinic to tell them about your child’s COVID-19 symptoms. If your child does not have a HCP, call your local health department.
  
  - **NO**
    - **YES**
      - Your child **CAN** go to school today.
      - Make sure they wear a face covering or face mask, practice social distancing, and wash their hands!

---

**Report absences, symptoms, and positive COVID-19 test results to your child’s school.**

---

**SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOUR CHILD HAS:**

- Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
- Prolonged fever
- Is too sick to drink fluids
- Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
- Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
- Racing heart or chest pain
- Decreased urine output
- Lethargy, irritability, or confusion

---

September 2020 | A-1
My child has COVID-19 symptoms. When can they go back to school?

**HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (HCP) EVALUATION FOR COVID-19**
(can be in-person or by video/telephone as determined by HCP)

- **HCP Recommends COVID-19 Diagnostic Test**
  - **Positive Test Result**
    - Stay Out of School and in isolation until test result is back
  - **Negative Test Result**
    - If your child’s symptoms are improving AND they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines, your child may return to school with:
      1. A note from HCP indicating the test was negative OR
      2. Provide a copy of the negative test result.
    - Your local health department will contact you to follow up.
    - Your child must remain in isolation (at home and away from others) until your local health department has released them from isolation, which is typically:
      - 10 days after symptom onset; AND
      - Child’s symptoms are improving; AND
      - Child is fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.
    - While your child is in isolation, all members of the household must quarantine at home until released by the local health department, typically 14 days.
    - Note: A repeat negative COVID-19 test is not required for return to school.

- **HCP Gives Alternate Diagnosis**
  - **STAY OUT OF SCHOOL and in isolation until test result is back**
  - **COVID-19 Diagnostic Test Recommended but Not Done and No Alternate Diagnosis**
  - **Child is Not Evaluated by HCP**

- **COVID-19 diagnostic testing includes molecular (e.g., PCR) or antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Diagnostic testing may be performed with a nasopharyngeal swab, nasal swab, or saliva sample, as ordered by the health care provider and per laboratory specifications. At times, a negative antigen test will need to be followed up with a confirmatory molecular test. Serology (antibody testing) cannot be used to rule in or out acute COVID-19.**