

Home Screening Tool for COVID-19 Symptoms

FOR SCHOOL, CHILD CARE, AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING

UPDATED 11/12/20

Latest update: improved guidance about handling children who have COVID-19 or who have symptoms when more than one child lives in the home.

Answer these screening questions **each time** you are going to send a child to school, child care, or to youth programs. If you answer “yes” to any question, the child should stay home.

Overview

A child must not go to school, child care, or youth programs if ANY of these are true about the child:

- Tests positive for COVID-19.
- Shows symptoms of COVID-19.
- May have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Is waiting to get tested, is waiting for COVID-19 test results, or lives with anyone who has symptoms and is getting tested for COVID-19.

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19, they must stay at home and away from others in the home as much as possible for **at least 10 days**, counting from the day their symptoms first started or the day they were tested, and until their symptoms get better and they have not had a fever for 24 hours without taking medicine to lower the fever. Even if they feel better sooner, they still must stay home for the full 10 days. These steps help to keep healthy children and staff in schools, child care, and youth programs safe.

Note: Children may still need to stay home for other illnesses that have symptoms that are similar to COVID-19, such as strep throat, stomach illness, or pink eye. Contact your child care provider or school for information about when your child can go back to school in these situations.

- Use this resource if you have additional questions about when your child can attend school or child care. [COVID-19 Attendance Guide for Parents and Families \(PDF\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/attendance.pdf)
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Daily screening questions

1. Does your child have ONE OR MORE of these symptoms?

- Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Difficulty/hard time breathing
- New cough or a cough that gets worse
- New loss of taste or smell

If a child has **one or more of these symptoms**, they must stay home and should stay away from others, including family members, as much as possible. Parents or caregivers should tell the school, child care, or youth program and consider calling the child's doctor or other health care provider.

Other children living in the house need to stay home from school or child care, too.

If no symptoms, go to the next question.

2. Does your child have AT LEAST TWO of these symptoms?

- Sore throat
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Excessive fatigue/feels very tired
- New severe/very bad headache
- New nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose

If a child has **at least two of these symptoms**, they must stay home and should stay away from others, including family members, as much as possible. Parents or caregivers should tell the school, child care, or youth program

and consider calling the child's doctor or other health care provider. Other children living in the house need to stay home from school or child care, too.

If no symptoms, go to the next question.

3. Has a doctor or another health care provider told your child since they last went to their school, child care, or youth program that they have COVID-19 or they have a positive test result for COVID-19?

No: The child can go to their school, child care, or youth program.

Yes: The child must stay at home and away from others as much as possible for **at least 10 days**, counting from the day their symptoms first started or the day they were tested, and until their symptoms get better AND they have not had a fever for 24 hours without taking medicine to lower the fever. Even if they feel better, they must stay home for the full 10 days. If your child has tested positive for COVID-19, but has no symptoms, they can return 10 days after the date of their test.

4. Has your child been identified as having close contact in the last 14 days with someone who has COVID-19, or has the school, child care, or youth program, or any health department, doctor, or other health care provider contacted you and said your child should stay home?

No: The child can go to their school, child care, or youth program.

Yes: The child must not go to their school, child care, or youth program. The child can return 14 days after the last time they had close contact with the person who has COVID-19, as long as the child has not developed symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19. Even if your child has tested negative, they cannot go back until it has been 14 since they had close contact.

5. Is your child or any other household member who has symptoms for COVID-19 currently waiting for COVID-19 test results?

No: The child and other children living in the home can go to their school, child care, or youth program.

Yes: The child must stay at home until they get their test results. Other children living in the house must also stay at home until test results are known.

If the test result is negative, the child with symptoms can return 24 hours after symptoms get better. Other children can return to school or child care as long as they are well when the test result is known.

If the test result is positive, the child who tested positive must stay at home and away from others as much as possible for **at least 10 days**, counting from the day their symptoms first started or the day they were tested, and until their symptoms get better and they have not had a fever for 24 hours without taking medicine to lower the fever. Other children must remain at home for 14 days, starting from the last day they had close contact with the person who has COVID-19.

Resources

- [When to Quarantine \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html)
- [COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs \(PDF\) \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf)
- [Schools and Child Care: COVID-19 \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/index.html)



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Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format.

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