

# Return to School or Child Care Protocols

## When Isolation is Required Because of Symptoms

**Updated**  
May 10, 2022

**Note:** Medical notes are not required to return to school.  
There is no requirement to provide COVID-19 test results to the school or childcare.

### Child/Student/Staff is Symptomatic and **Not Tested** for COVID-19 or **Tests Positive** for COVID-19

When an individual is experiencing symptom(s) of COVID-19 (as listed in the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms) and **does not** use a rapid antigen test or a PCR test, this individual is presumed to have COVID-19 based on their symptoms and must isolate.

When an individual tests positive for COVID-19 on a single PCR test or rapid antigen test, they likely have COVID-19 and must self-isolate.

#### Age 11 years or younger OR fully vaccinated

**Isolate for 5 days** from when symptoms started, or the positive test date, whichever is earlier. Isolation continues until there is no fever and symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea).

**For 10 days after** symptoms started or from the positive test date, **wear a well-fitted mask** in all public settings (including school or child care) **and avoid activities where taking off the mask would be needed** (for example, playing a wind instrument or removing the mask for sports). Masks may be removed to eat, while maintaining as much distancing from others as possible. Do no visit anyone who may be at higher risk of illness.

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3    | 4   | 5     | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10   | 11  | 12    | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17   | 18  | 19    | 20  | 21  |

#### Age 12+ years and partially vaccinated or unvaccinated OR immunocompromised

**Isolate for 10 days** from when symptoms started, or the positive test date, whichever is earlier. Isolation continues until there is no fever and symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea).

**If immunocompromised: for 20 days after** symptoms started or from the positive test date, **wear a well-fitted mask** in all public settings (including school or child care) **and avoid activities where taking off the mask would be needed** (for example, playing a wind instrument or removing the mask for sports). Masks may be removed to eat, while maintaining as much distancing from others as possible. Do no visit anyone who may be at higher risk of illness.

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3    | 4   | 5     | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10   | 11  | 12    | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17   | 18  | 19    | 20  | 21  |

#### Legend



Symptoms start, self-isolate immediately



Self-isolate at home, except for emergency medical care



Wear a mask and return to school if feeling well.



May attend school with or without a mask if feeling well





## Household Members and Close Contacts:

**Household members should stay home** at the same time as the symptomatic/positive person(s), **unless** they:

- are 17 or younger and fully vaccinated ,
- are 18 or older and have received their COVID-19 booster dose, AND/OR
- have previously tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days and have already completed their isolation.

**For 10 days after their last exposure** to the person with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result (or from when the symptomatic/positive person finishes their isolation), **all household members and close contacts should:**

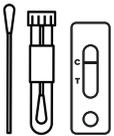
- monitor closely for any symptoms of COVID-19,
- wear a well-fitted mask in all public settings (including school or childcare),
- avoid activities where they need to take off their mask (for example, playing a wind instrument in music class or removing their mask for sports)

**Note:** Household members already isolating because they had symptoms and/or a positive test result do not need to extend their isolation period if another household member develops symptoms or tests positive.

## Child/Student/Staff **Tests Negative** for COVID-19 with 2 Rapid Antigen Tests or a PCR test

If **two** consecutive rapid antigen tests collected 24 to 48 hours apart are both negative or a single PCR test is negative, the child/student/staff may return to school or child care if **all of these conditions are met:**

- Their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea),
- They do not have a fever (without using medication),
- They feel well enough to attend, AND
- They pass the daily screening.



## COVID-19 Testing

Rapid antigen tests should be available to all children/students/staff from their school.