VDH Algorithm for Evaluating a Child with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure

[This algorithm is for diagnostic purposes, and should not be used for screening testing]

FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Symptoms new or unusual for the child

Keep child home. Call your healthcare provider. (If no clinical evaluation see Return section below.) Notify the school.

Symptoms usual for the child (e.g., allergies, migraines, asthma) or caused by a known diagnosis (e.g., ear infection, strep throat)

Seek care as per usual practice. If fever present, stay home until at least 24 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medicines

FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Symptoms new or unusual for the child

Isolate from others. Send home. If no clinical evaluation, see Return section below.

Other explanation for symptoms (e.g., chronic condition or known diagnosis)

Send home until at least 24 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medicines

FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

If no clinical evaluation performed

Symptoms present (whether or not they had close contact**)

Is your child sick with symptom(s) of COVID-19*

YES

NO

Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset (or date of positive test). Quarantine close contacts.¹

Does a child have symptom(s) of COVID-19* at school/child care?

NO

YES

10-day home isolation. There return when no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine. Quarantine close contacts.²

If your child has symptom(s) of COVID-19 at school/child care?

NO

YES

14-day home quarantine.¹ If no symptoms, return after Day 14. If symptoms develop, need 10-day isolation and quarantine close contacts.²

If your child has known close contact** in the past 14 days with someone with COVID-19?

NO

YES

Continue Normal Activities

Test (and/or evaluate clinically) for COVID-19. Isolate at home.

Consider alternate diagnoses. Once symptoms have improved and child has no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, allow return to school/child care.

Clinical Evaluation for Children with Symptoms of COVID-19*


In past 14 days, has there been known close contact** with person with known or suspected COVID-19?

NO

YES

Negative for COVID-19

Positive test for COVID-19

Negative for COVID-19 or not tested

Test *for COVID-19 right away. If negative test and no symptoms, retest at 5 days or more after exposure. Isolate/quarantine⁵ at home.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

If no clinical evaluation performed

Symptoms present (whether or not they had close contact**)

NO

Yes and had close contact**

14-day quarantine recommended. If unable to stay home for 14 days and if no symptoms have developed, quarantine can end after Day 10 with no test or after Day 7 with a negative PCR or antigen test performed on or after Day 5. 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 precautions.

10-day home isolation. There return when no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine. Quarantine close contacts.²

After 10-day isolation, if no fever for at least 24 hours and symptoms have improved, child may return to school and/or child care.

If symptoms develop, retest as soon as possible. Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset. Quarantine close contacts.⁵

Quarantine for 14 days after last exposure* or isolate for 10 days after symptom onset

If no symptoms develop, child may return to school and/or child care after Day 14.²

*14-day quarantine recommended. If unable to stay home for 14 days and if no symptoms have developed, quarantine can end after Day 10 with no test or after Day 7 with a negative PCR or antigen test performed on or after Day 5. 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 precautions.