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

**FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

*Symptoms* of COVID-19 include fever (≥100.4°F) or chills, fatigue (more tired than usual), headache, muscle aches, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, new onset of poor appetite or poor feeding.

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**FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES**

**Close contact** means being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, or having direct exposure to respiratory secretions.

***≥50 cases per 100,000 population in the past 14 days.***

Click here for local information: www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/school-metrics/
FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

◆ Testing – PCR or antigen (Ag) testing is acceptable. If an Ag test is negative and clinical suspicion for COVID-19 is high, confirm with PCR, ideally within 2 days of the initial Ag test. If PCR testing is not available, clinical discretion can be used in whether to recommend the patient isolate.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

Clinical Evaluation for Children with Symptoms of COVID-19*

In past 14 days, no known close contact** and no exposure to area with ≥50 cases/100,000 population***

Consider alternate diagnoses. Testing* and exclusion for COVID-19 may be considered based on level of clinical suspicion and testing availability.

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

In past 14 days, exposure to area with ≥50 cases/100,000 population ***

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

Positive test or diagnosis for COVID-19

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

Negative for COVID-19

Negative for COVID-19 or not tested

If symptoms develop, consider retesting. Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset. Quarantine close contacts.

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

No symptoms but had close contact**

14-day home quarantine. If no symptoms, return on Day 15. If symptoms develop, need 10-day isolation and quarantine close contacts.

If no clinical evaluation performed

Symptoms and no close contact** and no exposure in last 14 days to area with ≥50 cases/100,000***

Return when no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.

Symptoms and had close contact** or exposure in last 14 days to area with ≥50 cases/100,000 ***

If no symptoms develop, consider retesting. Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset. Quarantine close contacts.

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