Appendix

VDH Algorithm for Evaluating a Child with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure (October 8, 2020)

Top half

FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

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

NO

YES

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

Has the child had close contact** in the past 14 days with someone with COVID-19?

NO

YES

Send to School and/or Child Care

FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES

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

NO

YES

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)

Fever present

NO

YES

Normal Activities

Has the child had close contact** in the past 14 days with someone with COVID-19?

**Close contact means being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more 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/

*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.
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

If no clinical evaluation performed

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

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 population***

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

Test* for COVID-19 right away if symptoms present, or approximately 1 week after likely exposure if no symptoms. Isolate/quarantine at home.

Negative for COVID-19

Positive test or diagnosis for COVID-19

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

Isolate at home.

Isolate/quarantine at home.

Quarantine close contacts.

Quarantine for 10 days after symptom onset or date of positive test. Quarantine close contacts.

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

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

Quarantine close contacts.

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

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

If no symptoms develop, return to school and/or child care on Day 15.

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

Negative for COVID-19

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

If no clinical evaluation performed

Negative for COVID-19 or not tested

No symptoms but had close contact**

If no symptoms develop, return to school and/or child care on Day 15.

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

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

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.

14-day home quarantine for COVID-19. Isolate at home.

10-day home isolation for COVID-19. Isolate at home.

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.


10/08/2020
When Can I Send My Child to School and/or Child Care?

Answer These Two Questions Every Day Before Sending Your Child to School and/or Child Care:

1) Has your child been close to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

2) Is your child sick?

Keep your child home. Talk with your healthcare provider and/or your school about when the child may return to school/child care.

Did you answer “YES” to EITHER question?

If “YES” to Question 1, see Scenario 1. If “NO” to Question 1 but “YES” to Question 2, see Scenario 2.

Send your child to school/child care.

Did you answer “NO” to BOTH questions?

Scenarios for Evaluating a Child Based on COVID-19 Exposure

Child Has Been Exposed to COVID-19

**Scenario 1**

- The child has been close to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
  - The child must stay home.
  - If no symptoms throughout the entire 14-day quarantine: On Day 15 child may return to school/child care.
  - If no symptoms at first but some develop: When symptoms start, consult healthcare provider, begin 10-day home isolation for sick child, and begin 14-day quarantine for close contacts.
  - Must have no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine and feel better before returning to class after 10-day isolation.

A negative test for COVID-19 does not change these recommendations.

‘Close to someone with COVID-19’ means being within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes, or having direct contact with secretions.

**Scenario 2**

- You already know why the child is sick, and it is not COVID-19
  - Fever: Stay home until fever is gone for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications.
  - No Fever: Child may return to school/child care as symptoms permit.

- The child has been tested or evaluated for COVID-19
  - Negative: Stay home until fever is gone for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications.
  - Positive test or diagnosis: Isolate at home for 10 days after symptom onset and 24 hours fever-free. Quarantine close contacts.

- Exposure in last 14 days to area with ≥50 cases/100,000
  - No exposure in last 14 days to area with ≥50 cases/100,000: Stay home until fever is gone for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Outbreaks may result in more stringent recommendations.

Evaluation by a healthcare provider is strongly recommended for any child who is sick.
**Clinical Evaluation for Children with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure**


---

**For Healthcare Providers**

---

**APPENDIX**

---

**In last 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**

---

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

---

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

---

**If no symptoms develop, return to school and/or childcare on Day 15.**

---

**Close contact** in past 14 days with person with known or suspected COVID-19

---

**Symptoms Present:**

Test **for COVID-19 immediately**

---

**Symptoms Not Present:**

Test ~1 week after likely exposure

---

**Isolate/quarantine at home.**

---

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

---

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

---

**Test** for COVID-19 immediately

---

**Isolate at home.**

---

**Consider alternate diagnoses.**

---

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

---

**Negative for COVID-19**

---

**Negative for COVID-19 or not tested**

---

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

---

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

---

**If no symptoms develop, return to school and/or childcare on Day 15.**

---

**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.**

---

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

---

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

---

Click here for local information: