Appendix

VDH Algorithm for Evaluating a Child with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure (April 26, 2021)

FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

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

*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.

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.

NO

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

Send to School and/or Child Care

Normal Activities

FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES

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

*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.

YES

Symptoms new or unusual for the child

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

NO

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

Fever present

YES

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

NO

Normal activities

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

YES

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

NO

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

NO

Send home.

If no clinical evaluation, see Return section below


*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.

**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. Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months and recovered and most people who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 do not need to be tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

- **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 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 prevention recommendations.

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/week*** 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/week ***
- 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.*

- In past 14 days, close contact** with person with known or suspected COVID-19
- Test* for COVID-19 right away, if negative test and no symptoms, retest at 5 days or more after exposure. Isolate/quarantine* at home.
- Negative for COVID-19 or not tested
- Negative for COVID-19
- If symptoms develop, consider retesting. Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset. Quarantine close contacts.*

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

APPENDIX

VDH Algorithm for Evaluating a Child with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure (April 26, 2021)

Bottom half

When Should a Child Stay Home From School and/or Child Care? • A VDH Guideline for Evaluating a Child with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure

For Parents and Guardians

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?

Did you answer “YES” to EITHER question?

Did you answer “NO” to BOTH questions?

Send your child to school/child care.

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

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

Keep your child home.

**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 symptoms:
  - Contact healthcare provider. Isolate at home for 10 days after the day symptoms start. Quarantine close contacts.

- 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.

- If child has symptoms: Contact healthcare provider. Isolate at home for 10 days after the day symptoms start. Quarantine close contacts.

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**Scenario 2**

- You already know why the child is sick, and it is not COVID-19
  - 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
  - The child has NOT been close to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, but the child is sick
    - Negative
      - Stay home until fever is gone for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications.
      - Isolate at home for 10 days after symptom onset and 24 hours fever-free. Quarantine close contacts.
    - Positive test or diagnosis
      - Isolate at home for 10 days after symptom onset or date of positive test and 24 hours fever-free. Quarantine close contacts.

- You do not know why the child is sick, and the child has not been tested for COVID-19
  - Exposure in last 14 days to area with ≥50 cases/100,000/week
    - Isolate at home for 10 days after symptom onset and 24 hours fever-free. Quarantine close contacts.
  - No exposure in last 14 days to area with ≥50 cases/100,000/week
    - Stay home until fever is gone for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications.

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**Child Has Not Been Exposed to COVID-19**

- Evaluation by a healthcare provider is strongly recommended for any child who is sick.

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**APPENDIX**

- Outbreaks may result in more stringent recommendations.
- *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 prevention recommendations.
Clinical Evaluation for Children with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure

For Healthcare Providers

Symptoms Present:
Test * for COVID-19 immediately

Symptoms Not Present:
Test for COVID-19 immediately; if negative, retest at 5 days or more after exposure.

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

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/week***

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

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

If no symptoms develop, child may return to school and/or child care after Day 14.#

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 for COVID-19 immediately; if negative, retest at 5 days or more after exposure.

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

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/week***

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

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

If no symptoms develop, child may return to school and/or child care after Day 14.#

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. Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months and recovered and most people who are fully vaccinated do not need to be tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

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*** ≥50 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days. Click here for local information: www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/school-metrics/

# 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 prevention recommendations.