

If you choose to have your student evaluated/tested for COVID-19, please follow the guidance on the reverse page.

School _____

Date _____

_____ has been sent home today with the symptoms indicated below. Due to the community spread of COVID-19, _____ is following the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Decision Tree guidance to determine the length of time students will need to remain away from school when exposed or exhibiting symptoms (this guidance was designed by MDH specifically for schools and child care programs and may differ from local businesses or employers).

We understand how difficult this time can be for families. Our top priority is to promote the health and safety of all our students and staff. Thank you for helping us protect members of our community. **MDH Decision Tree Guidance:**

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

**“LESS COMMON” Symptoms
Consistent with COVID-19**

- Sore Throat
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- Muscle Pain
- Excessive fatigue
- NEW onset of severe headache
- NEW onset of nasal congestion/runny nose

- ➡ If ONE symptom is checked, follow FIRST PATH
- ➡ If TWO or more symptoms are checked, follow SECOND PATH

**“MORE COMMON” Symptoms
Consistent with COVID-19**

- Fever greater than or equal to 100.4°F
- NEW onset and/or worsening cough
- Difficulty breathing
- NEW loss of taste or smell

- ➡ If ONE symptom is checked, follow SECOND PATH

FIRST PATH

- ➡ Evaluate symptom and determine if the student is well enough to attend or remain in school or program.
- ➡ If not feeling well, student should stay home and consider an evaluation from a health care provider.
- ➡ Student may return to school 24 hours after symptom improved.
- ➡ Siblings and household contacts DO NOT need to stay home or quarantine.

SECOND PATH

- ➡ Student must stay home in isolation for at least 10 days from time symptoms started until symptoms improved AND no fever for 24 hours without medication. (Consider testing; reverse page)
- ➡ Siblings and household contacts stay home and quarantine from all activities for at least 14 days.

CLOSE CONTACT PATH

“Close contact” definition: a person who was *within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes* of someone tested positive for COVID-19

- ➡ Stay home from all activities for at least 14 days since last contact with positive case. Consider testing 5-7 days after last contact with positive case. *Even if the student receives a negative test result, they need to complete the 14 days of quarantine before returning to school (cannot ‘test out’ of quarantine).*
- ➡ Siblings and household contact DO NOT need to stay home or quarantine.
- ➡ **IF symptoms develop and/or positive test results received**, stay home in isolation for at least 10 days from time symptoms started until symptoms improved AND no fever for 24 hours without medication.
- ➡ Siblings and household contacts are now ‘close contacts’ and stay home and quarantine from all activities for at least 14 days.

Medical Evaluation and/or COVID-19 Testing

If you choose NOT to have a MEDICAL EVALUATION/TEST

Second Path:

ONE 'more common' or TWO 'less common' symptoms

- ➡ Student must stay home in isolation for at least 10 days from time symptoms started until symptoms improved AND no fever for 24 hours without medication.
- ➡ Siblings and household contacts stay home and quarantine from all activities for at least 14 days.

ALTERNATIVE DIAGNOSIS

Written documentation from the provider indicating alternative diagnosis or pre-existing condition is needed to return to school.

First or Second Path

- ➡ Student may return to school 24 hours after symptoms improved or as directed by health care provider
- ➡ Siblings and household contacts DO NOT need to stay home once the alternative diagnosis is known.
- ➡ Regardless of alternative diagnosis, IF the student is *a/so* tested for COVID-19, the student and household contacts must stay home until results are received.

TESTED FOR COVID-19

First or Second Path

- ➡ Student and household contacts must stay home until results are received:
 - ➡ **NEGATIVE COVID-19 Test Results:**
 - Student may return to school 24 hours after symptoms improved or as directed by health care provider.
 - Siblings and household contacts DO NOT need to stay home once the negative result is known.
 - ➡ **POSITIVE COVID-19 Test Results:**
 - Student must stay home and continue to isolate for at least 10 days from time symptoms started until symptoms improved AND no fever for 24 hours without medication.
 - Siblings and household contacts are now considered 'close contacts' and must continue to quarantine from all activities for at least 14 days.
 - Quarantine timelines are based on the last day you were in close contact with the positive person.
- CDC guidance:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Please contact your student's school health office with questions.