

# Home Screening Tool for COVID-19 Symptoms

FOR SCHOOL, CHILD CARE, AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING

12/29/2020

Latest update: References to quarantine were updated to include new language around shortened quarantine options.

Answer these screening questions **each time** you are going to send a child to school, child care, or to youth programs. If you answer “yes” to any question, the child should stay home.

---

## Overview

A child must not go to school, child care, or youth programs if ANY of these are true about the child:

- Tests positive for COVID-19.
- Shows symptoms of COVID-19.
- May have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Is waiting to get tested, is waiting for COVID-19 test results, or lives with anyone who has symptoms and is getting tested for COVID-19.

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19, they must stay at home and away from others in the home as much as possible for **at least 10 days**, counting from the day their symptoms first started or the day they were tested, and until their symptoms get better and they have not had a fever for 24 hours without taking medicine to lower the fever. Even if they feel better sooner, they still must stay home for the full 10 days. These steps help to keep healthy children and staff in schools, child care, and youth programs safe.

Note: Children may still need to stay home for other illnesses that have symptoms that are similar to COVID-19, such as strep throat, stomach illness, or pink eye. Contact your child care provider or school for information about when your child can go back to school in these situations.

- Use this resource if you have additional questions about when your child can attend school or child care. [COVID-19 Attendance Guide for Parents and Families](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/attendance.pdf) ([www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/attendance.pdf](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/attendance.pdf))

## Daily screening questions

### 1. Does your child have ONE OR MORE of these symptoms?

- Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Difficulty/hard time breathing
- New cough or a cough that gets worse
- New loss of taste or smell

If a child has **one or more of these symptoms**, they must stay home and should stay away from others, including family members, as much as possible. Parents or caregivers should tell the school, child care, or youth program and consider calling the child's doctor or other health care provider.

Other children living in the house need to stay home from school or child care, too.

**If no symptoms, go to the next question.**

### 2. Does your child have AT LEAST TWO of these symptoms?

- Sore throat
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Excessive fatigue/feels very tired
- New severe/very bad headache
- New nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose

If a child has **at least two of these symptoms**, they must stay home and should stay away from others, including family members, as much as possible. Parents or caregivers should tell the school, child care, or youth program and consider calling the child's doctor or other health care provider.

Other children living in the house need to stay home from school or child care, too.

**If no symptoms, go to the next question.**

**3. Has a doctor or another health care provider told your child since they last went to their school, child care, or youth program that they have COVID-19 or they have a positive test result for COVID-19?**

- No: The child can go to their school, child care, or youth program.
- Yes: The child must stay at home and away from others as much as possible for **at least 10 days**, counting from the day their symptoms first started or the day they were tested, and until their symptoms get better AND they have not had a fever for 24 hours without taking medicine to lower the fever. Even if they feel better, they must stay home for the full 10 days. If your child has tested positive for COVID-19, but has no symptoms, they can return 10 days after the date of their test.

**4. Is your child or any other household member who has symptoms for COVID-19 currently waiting for COVID-19 test results?**

- No: The child and other children living in the home can go to their school, child care, or youth program.
- Yes: The child must stay at home until test results are known for themselves or for the household member. Other children living in the house must also stay at home until test results are known.

If the test result is negative, the child with symptoms can return 24 hours after symptoms get better. Other children can return to school or child care as long as they are well when the test result is known.

If the test result is positive, the child who tested positive must stay at home and away from others as much as possible for **at least 10 days**, counting from the day their symptoms first started or the day they were tested, and until their symptoms get better and they have not had a fever for 24 hours without taking medicine to lower the fever.

Other children in the household must remain at home for at least 14 days (quarantine), starting from the last day they had close contact with the household member who has COVID-19.

**5. Has a household member tested positive for COVID-19 or been told they have COVID-19?**

- No: The child and other children living in the home can go to their school, child care, or youth program.
- Yes: The children must stay at home (quarantine) for at least 14 days starting from the last day they had contact with the household member who has COVID-19. If household members cannot separate, then the children must stay home for a total of 24 days – 10 days for the period of time the household member is infectious with COVID-19 followed by a quarantine period of 14 days.

**6. Has your child been identified as having close contact in the last 14 days with someone (other than a household member) who has COVID-19, or has the school, child care, or youth program, or other program or health department contacted you and said your child should stay home?**

No: The child can go to their school, child care, or youth program.

Yes: The child must not go to their school, child care, or youth program.

A 14-day quarantine is still recommended for people who have been exposed to COVID-19. In some circumstances, a shortened quarantine period may be possible. Contact the child's school, child care, or youth programs to determine if there is an option to use a shortened quarantine period.

The school, child care, and youth program must follow the guidance in these documents.

- [Close Contacts and Tracing: COVID-19 \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/close.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/close.html)
- [Quarantine Guidance for COVID-19 \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/quarguide.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/quarguide.pdf)

#### Resources

- [CDC: When to Quarantine \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html)
- [COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf)
- [Schools and Child Care: COVID-19 \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/index.html)



Minnesota Department of Health | [health.mn.gov](http://health.mn.gov) | 651-201-5000  
625 Robert Street North PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Contact [health.communications@state.mn.us](mailto:health.communications@state.mn.us) to request an alternate format.