

# Return to Learn: guidance following a positive COVID-19 Symptom Screen (R3)

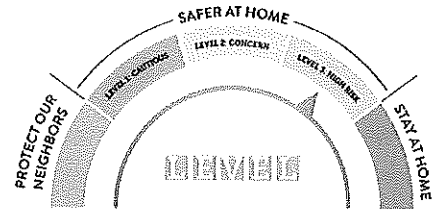
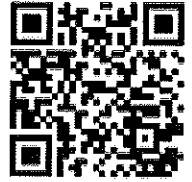


This decision tool is NOT intended for cases or close contacts of COVID-19.

A confirmed COVID-19 case or close contact should follow public health isolation or quarantine instructions for return to school/work. No test result can end an individual's isolation or quarantine period early.

\*All students/staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested as soon as possible.

To request assistance or provide feedback:  
<https://tinyurl.com/COP12Feedback>



For use in communities in  
**Safer at Home: Level 3**  
 or for people who have traveled to or lived  
 in an area with large numbers of COVID-19  
 cases within the past 14 days

\*Start

Does individual have new loss of taste or smell of any duration?

No Yes

Have symptoms resolved within 24 hours of symptom onset?

Yes No

Did the person have Minor symptoms only AND symptoms resolved in 48 hours AND can person wear a mask safely?

Yes No

Was PCR testing done?<sup>†</sup>

Yes/pending No

Test result

Negative Positive

Is there an alternate diagnosis that explains all symptoms?

Yes No

Can person wear a mask safely?

Yes No

Follow regular Return to School illness policies if all symptoms have stayed resolved for 24 hours

Follow **Home Isolation** for 10 days following symptom onset AND 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds

<sup>†</sup> POC or Rapid Testing: Positive POC or rapid test results are treated the same as positive PCR results and should not be followed by confirmatory RT-PCR. Negative POC or rapid tests must be confirmed with a RT-PCR before returning to school.

- Critical Symptom**
- Loss of taste or smell

- Major Symptoms**
- Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4° F or greater
  - New or worsening cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

- Minor Symptoms**
- Sore throat
  - Runny nose or congestion
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - Fatigue
  - Nausea, vomiting
  - Diarrhea

<sup>1</sup> In the setting of medium or high transmission, the following are examples of alternate diagnoses that should be considered if the COVID-19 PCR is negative.

- Positive laboratory test: influenza, streptococcal pharyngitis ("strep throat"), bacterial infection
- Clinical diagnoses: worsening of known illness (such as asthma or seasonal allergies) with clear link to underlying disease