



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Can I go to school today?

At-home symptom screening for parents and staff

Parents and guardians can use these symptom checklists to determine when to keep their child at home based on the level of COVID-19 transmission in their community (e.g. Is the community in Protect Your Neighbor or Safer at Home or Stay at Home). School staff can also use this tool to determine if they need to stay at home. **Any student or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 or who is a close contact of a COVID-19 case should not go to school and should isolate or quarantine according to public health recommendations.**

These lists refer only to new symptoms or a change in usual symptoms. A student/ staff should not be kept home for usual symptoms they experience due to a chronic condition unless they are worse than usual. These guidelines are in addition to your regular school guidance (for example, a child with vomiting should also not attend school based on usual school guidance).

If your child is/ you are experiencing any potentially life-threatening symptoms please call 911.

Low Community Transmission (Protect Your Neighbors):

If any of the following symptoms are present, keep the child at home/ stay at home, inform the school of symptoms, and reach out to a health care provider about COVID-19 testing and next steps for treatment.

- Feeling feverish, having chills, or temperature 100.4°F or higher.
- New or unexplained persistent cough.
- Shortness of breath.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Loss of taste or smell.

Sustained Community Transmission (Safer at Home or Stay at Home):

If any of the following symptoms are present, keep the child at home/ stay at home, inform the school of symptoms, and reach out to a health care provider about COVID-19 testing and next steps for treatment.

- Feeling feverish, having chills, or temperature 100.4°F or higher.
- New or unexplained persistent cough.
- Shortness of breath.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Loss of taste or smell.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle aches.
- Headache.
- Sore throat.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.
- Runny nose or congestion.

COVID-19: Child/Staff Feels/Appears Unwell after Arriving at School



If the person has any of the following symptoms, immediately call 911
Difficulty breathing, chest pain, new confusion, difficulty concentrating, bluish lips or face.

Assess for any COVID-19-like symptoms

MAJOR SYMPTOMS

- Feeling feverish, having chills, or
- Temperature of 100.4° F or greater
- Loss of taste or smell
- New or unexplained persistent cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

MINOR SYMPTOMS

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

Does this person have one or more of the COVID-19 symptoms listed above?

Yes

No

Are these symptoms of a new or worsening chronic condition, or is it accompanied by a new **Major** or **Minor** symptom?

Yes

No

1. Place a surgical mask on the student/staff if safe to do so
2. Assist the student to an area that is separate from others, but within adult line of sight.

All staff assisting ill individuals should wear appropriate COVID-19 PPE and perform frequent hand hygiene and disinfect all environmental surfaces once the person leaves an area.

1. Follow routine illness care
2. Return to class if appropriate. Alert teacher to monitor the student with heightened awareness.
3. Record visit in the usual manner.

What is your community level of COVID-19 transmission?

Low/Minimal Levels of Community Transmission

Students/Staff with two or more Minor symptoms or one or more Major symptom

1. Call parents and send home. Send staff home.
2. If symptoms worsen or last longer than 48–72 hours, contact your doctor to see if a COVID-19 PCR test is indicated.
3. Follow COVID-19 [Return to School/Work](#) guidance.

Sustained Community Transmission

or the ill person lived, worked or traveled to an area with sustained transmission

Students/Staff with one or more Major or Minor symptoms

1. Call parents to pick up ASAP. Send staff home.
2. Call your doctor and ask for a COVID PCR test within 24 hours, if indicated.
3. Follow COVID-19 [Return to School/Work](#) guidance.

Q: When a student or staff is out of school because of a COVID-19 test, symptoms or exposure, do their class, cohort and close contacts need to be dismissed and quarantined?

A: If the student or staff sent home was in class within 48 hours prior to their test (or symptom onset), follow the flowchart below.

START

Does the student or staff sent home have a **positive COVID-19 test**?

Does the student or staff sent home have **new symptoms and close contact** with someone who has COVID-19?

Did the student or staff sent home have a **fever and any other major symptom**?

Quarantine Immediately

If **ANY** answers are YES

Dismiss classmates, cohort and other in-school contacts.

These individuals should follow quarantine precautions until the **Criteria to Return to Care or In-Person Learning*** have been met.

<http://covid19.colorado.gov/how-to-quarantine#>

If **ALL** answers are NO

Is the school in a community with **Sustained Community Transmission** (Stay at Home or Safer at Home)?

Does the student or staff sent home have one or more **Major symptoms**?

Does the student or staff sent home have two or more **Minor symptoms**?

Has there been another known case of COVID-19 in the school in the last 14 days?

Are 10% or more of the students or staff in the classroom or cohort currently out with COVID-19 symptoms? (rounding up; e.g., for 14-member classroom, 2 or more students and staff)

Evaluate for 4 days before quarantine

If **Criteria to Return to Care or In-Person Learning*** are not met after 4 days

If all answers are NO or **Criteria to Return to Care or In-Person Learning*** are met

Continue care or in-person learning

***Criteria to Return to Care or In-Person Learning**

The student or staff sent home has any of the following:

- In a person with any **Major symptoms**, ALL symptoms have resolved within 24 hours; or
- In a person with only **Minor symptoms**, ALL symptoms have resolved within 48 hours; or
- **Another diagnosis that explains their symptoms** after consulting with a healthcare provider; or
- A **negative COVID-19 PCR test**.

OR 14 days have passed since the student or staff sent home was last in school.

MAJOR SYMPTOMS

- Feeling feverish, having chills, or
- Temperature of 100.4° F or greater
- Loss of taste or smell
- New or unexplained persistent cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

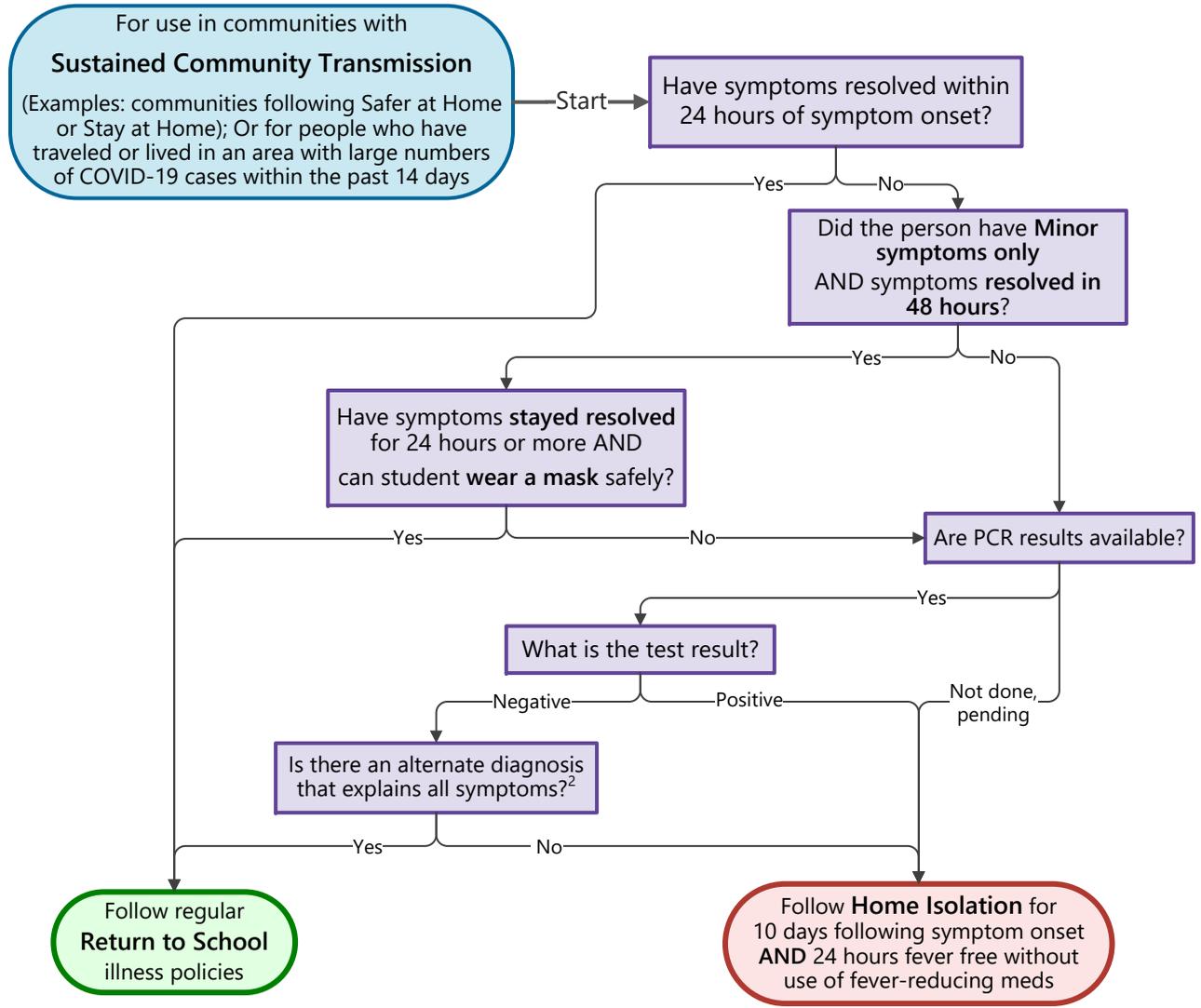
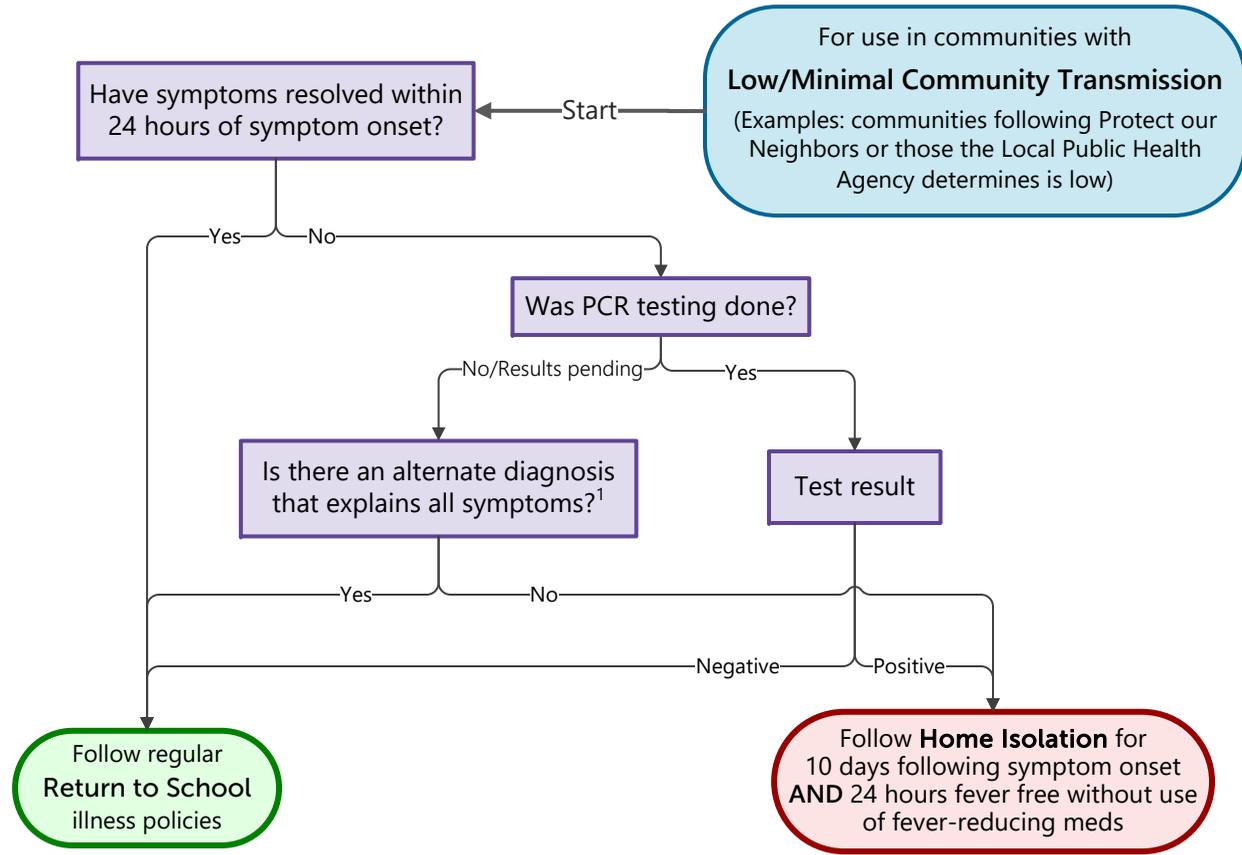
MINOR SYMPTOMS

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

Return to School/Work Guidance: following a positive symptom screen for COVID-19



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 quarantine or isolation instructions for return to school/work.



All students/staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested. This tool can be followed while waiting for test results.

¹ In the setting of low community transmission, the following are examples of alternate diagnoses that should be considered, if the clinician believes that they explain the reported symptoms. However, if the patient has 2 or more major criteria, fever and any major criteria, known contact with a person with known or suspected COVID-19, or new loss of taste/smell, COVID-19 PCR should be pursued regardless of alternative diagnosis.
Positive laboratory test: influenza, streptococcal pharyngitis ("strep throat"), respiratory pathogen panel (for example pertussis), bacterial infection
Clinical diagnosis: worsening of known illness (such as asthma or seasonal allergies) with clear link to underlying disease

² 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"), respiratory pathogen, bacterial infection
Clinical diagnosis: worsening of known illness (such as asthma or seasonal allergies) with clear link to underlying disease

| MAJOR SYMPTOMS | | MINOR SYMPTOMS | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling feverish, having chills Temperature of 100.4°F or greater Loss of taste or smell | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or unexplained persistent cough Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sore throat Runny nose or congestion Muscle or body aches Headache | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fatigue Nausea, vomiting Diarrhea |