



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DECISION AID

Exclusion and Return for Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Persons with COVID-19-like Illness in Schools, Child Care Programs, and Youth Camps

For the purposes of this decision aid, COVID-19-like illness is defined as: New onset cough or shortness of breath **OR** At least **2** of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher, chills, shivering, muscle pain, sore throat, headache, loss of sense of taste or smell, and gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).

NOTE: This definition was adapted from the clinical criteria in the [CDC case definition of a probable case of COVID-19](#).

NON-COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with **ONE NEW** symptom not meeting the definition of COVID-19-like illness.



Exclude person and allow return when symptoms have improved and criteria in the [Communicable Diseases Summary](#) have been met as applicable. If person develops symptoms of COVID-19-like illness, follow processes below for person with COVID-like illness.

PRESUMPTIVE COVID-19 CASE

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19-like illness.

- Exclude person and recommend that they talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19 or whether there is another specific diagnosis.
- The person must isolate pending test results or evaluation by their health care provider.**
- Close contacts of the ill person should quarantine per [CDC guidelines](#).**

Person has positive test for COVID-19.

The ill person should stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** until no fever for at least **24 hours** without medication **AND** improvement of other symptoms.

Close contacts should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure **even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.**

Person does not receive a laboratory test or another specific alternative diagnosis by their health care provider.

The asymptomatic person must stay home for 10 days from positive test.

Person has a negative test for COVID-19.

The person should stay home until symptoms have improved and the criteria in the [Communicable Diseases Summary](#) have been met as applicable.

Close contacts DO NOT need to remain at home as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Health care provider documents that the person has a specific alternate diagnosis (e.g. influenza, strep throat, otitis) or health care provider documents that symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition.

Person should consider being tested/ retested for COVID-19 if symptoms do not improve.

POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

An **asymptomatic person** (child, care provider, educator, other staff) tests positive for COVID-19.

The ill person should stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** until no fever for at least **24 hours** without medication **AND** improvement of other symptoms.

The asymptomatic person must stay home for 10 days from positive test.

Close contacts should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure **even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.**

APPENDIX A

Requirement to Return to School Campus

Impacted Person	Actions/Requirements
COVID-19- Confirmed Positive Test- Symptomatic	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Exclude person from school campus.2. The ill person should stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND improvement of other symptoms.3. The asymptomatic person must stay home for 10 days from positive test.
COVID-19- Confirmed Positive Test- Asymptomatic	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Exclude person from school campus.2. The asymptomatic person must stay home for 10 days from positive test.
COVID-19- Presumptive Positive Test- Showing related symptoms and pending testing results or refusing or unable to be tested	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Exclude person from school campus.2. Recommend the person talk to their health care provider about testing or another specific diagnosis.3. Person must isolate pending test results or evaluation by their health care provider.4. If the person receives an alternate diagnosis from a physician to explain the symptoms, is released by their physician and are symptom free, they are able to return to the school campus.5. If the person receives a positive test result, they then are to move through the requirements set forth under the COVID-19- Confirmed Positive Test- Symptomatic protocol.6. In the absence of an evaluation by a health care provider or test results verifying the person is negative for COVID-19, the person must remain off the school campus for a minimum of 14 days from the onset of symptoms and must be symptom free.
Close Contact with Confirmed Positive Test- Symptomatic or Asymptomatic	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Exclude person from school campus.2. Should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.3. Should person become symptomatic they should contact their health care provider.4. May return to the school campus after 14 days and so long as they are asymptomatic.
Close Contact with Presumptive Positive Test	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Exclude person from school campus.2. Should stay home until earliest time one of the following criteria are met:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Learns the presumptive positive individual has received an alternative diagnosis from a physician to explain the symptoms-Learns the presumptive positive individual has received negative test results-Completes the 14 day quarantine and is asymptomatic3. If the close contact learns the presumptive positive individual did in fact receive a positive test result, the individual should follow the close contact with confirmed positive test- symptomatic or asymptomatic listed above.

RESOURCES

[CDC case definition of a probable case of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/) <https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/>

[Communicable Diseases Summary](https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/epsdt/healthykids/Documents/Communicable_Diseases_Fact_Sheet.pdf) https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/epsdt/healthykids/Documents/Communicable_Diseases_Fact_Sheet.pdf

[CDC Guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>