

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: Any 1 of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, OR At least 2 of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher (measured or subjective), chills or shaking chills, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and congestion or runny nose.

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with **1 new symptom not meeting the definition of COVID-19-like illness.**

Exclude person and allow return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication, **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-19-like illness.**

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

The asymptomatic person (**confirmed case**) should stay home for 10 days from positive test.

Close contacts should stay home and quarantine according to MDH and local guidance.

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 (e.g. influenza, strep throat, otitis) or a pre-existing condition that explains symptoms.
- The ill person should **isolate** pending test results or evaluation by their health care provider.

The ill person has a positive rapid antigen test or RT-PCR for COVID-19 (**confirmed case**).

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

If the ill person is still suspected of having COVID-19, close contacts should stay home and quarantine according to MDH and local guidance.

The ill person has a negative rapid antigen test for COVID-19 without a confirmatory RT-PCR.

The ill person does not receive a test for COVID-19 or another specific diagnosis by their health care provider.

The ill person should stay home and quarantine and talk to their health care provider to determine if COVID-19 is still suspected and if another test is needed.

If COVID-19 is not suspected, close contacts **DO NOT need to stay home** as long as they remain asymptomatic.

The ill person has a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19 **AND** had close contact with a person with COVID-19.

The ill person has a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19 and **NO** close contact with a person with COVID-19.

Health care provider documents that the ill person has another specific diagnosis **OR** that symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition **AND** the ill person had **NO** close contact with a person with COVID-19.

The ill person should stay home until symptoms have improved, no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication, **AND** criteria in the [Communicable Diseases Summary](#) have been met as applicable. If symptoms do not improve, the ill person should talk to their health care provider to determine if they should be tested/retested for COVID-19.

Close contacts of the ill person **DO NOT need to stay home** and quarantine as long as they remain asymptomatic.

NOTE: Close contacts of the ill person **DO NOT** need to stay home and quarantine at this time unless the ill person is found to have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 (i.e. the ill person is a [probable case](#) of COVID-19).