

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](#).

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.

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.

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



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



Person has negative test for COVID-19.



The person should stay home until symptoms have improved and 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 alternative 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.