

This guidance was developed by public health and healthcare professionals using proven public health principles. It may be revised in response to changing local and state circumstances. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's health, regardless of your child's vaccination status, consult your child's healthcare provider.

What happens if my child has symptoms at home or gets sick in a childcare or an out-of-school care program?

- If your child has any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed below, keep them home and call the child care program director or family child care provider to report their absence.
- If your child has any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed below while at child care or an out-of-school care program they will be moved to an area set up specifically for children not feeling well and you will be called to come pick up your child as soon as possible.
- It is strongly encouraged that decisions about when a child may return to care are made with the child's healthcare provider and the family. These decisions must ultimately ensure the health and safety of your child's community.

When does my child need a COVID-19 test?

- Here are the current pediatric symptoms associated with COVID-19:

Fever (100.4° F or higher)	Nausea
Cough	Vomiting
Shortness of Breath	Diarrhea
Sore Throat	Fatigue
Runny Nose	Muscle Aches
Loss of Smell or Taste	Headache

- If your child has any of these COVID-19 symptoms for **longer than 24 hours**, they should obtain a COVID-19 PCR test.
- Consider having your child tested **earlier than 24 hours** if they have a fever, cough, runny nose, headache, or loss of taste or smell. These are symptoms commonly experienced by children testing positive for COVID-19 in Vermont. Please consult with your child's healthcare provider if you need assistance deciding if your child needs an earlier test.
- If your child experiences allergy symptoms that are on the list above, COVID-19 PCR tests are recommended during this time of increased circulation of the COVID-19 virus.

When can my child go back to child care or an out-of-school care program?

You **do not** need a signed doctor's note for your child to re-enter childcare or an out-of-school care program.

- If your child has illness symptoms for **less than 24 hours**, they can go back to childcare or an out-of-school care program after it has been 24 hours or more since illness symptoms have resolved.
- If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 and **had a COVID-19 test**:
 - They must quarantine until they have received results of the test.

- If the test results are **NEGATIVE**, they can go back to child care or an out-of-school care program after:
 - It has been 24 hours or more of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine, **AND**
 - Other symptoms have improved.
- If the test results are **POSITIVE**, they can go back to child care or an out-of-school care program after:
 - It has been 24 hours or more of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine, **AND**
 - Other symptoms have improved, **AND**
 - 10 days or more have passed since any symptoms appeared.
- If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 lasting **longer than 24 hours** and **did not** have a COVID-19 test but **an alternative diagnosis was made** by the healthcare provider, they can go back to child care or an out-of-school program after:
 - It has been 24 hours or more of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine, **AND**
 - Other symptoms have improved.
- If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 lasting **longer than 24 hours** and **did not** have a COVID-19 test and **no alternative diagnosis was made**, they can go back to child care or an out-of-school program after:
 - It has been 24 hours or more of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine, **AND**
 - Other symptoms have improved, **AND**
 - At least 10 days have passed since any symptoms appeared.