

This guidance was developed by public health and health care professionals using proven public health principles at a time when community transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 illness in Vermont is extremely low. It may be revised in response to changing local and state circumstances.

What happens if my child has symptoms at home or gets sick in school?

- If your child has any of the symptoms listed below, keep them home from school and call the school to report their absence.
- If your child has any of the symptoms listed below while at school, they will be moved to an area set up specifically for students not feeling well and you will be called to come pick up your child as soon as possible.
- We encourage you sign a consent form that allows information to be shared between your child's school nurse (when available) and health care provider when your child is sick.
- While it is strongly encouraged that decisions about when a student may return to school are made with the school nurse, the student's health care provider, and the family, such decisions must ultimately ensure the health and safety of your child's school and community.

When does my child need a COVID-19 [test](#)?

Cough (new)	<p>If your child has ANY ONE of these symptoms, they likely need a COVID-19 test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call your child's healthcare provider for medical advice and possible office visit or referral to be tested. • Communicate the plan with your child's school nurse or designated personnel.
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	
Loss of taste (new)	
Loss of smell (new)	
Fever alone that persists > 24 hours (temperature higher than 100.4°)	
Fever (temperature higher than 100.4°)	<p>If your child has TWO OR MORE of these symptoms, they MIGHT need a COVID-19 test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call your child's healthcare provider for medical advice and possible office visit to determine what to do next. • Communicate the plan with your child's school nurse or designated personnel. <p>If your child has ONLY ONE of these symptoms, keep your child at home until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine. • They have felt better for at least 24 hours (symptoms are improved or gone).
Chills	
Muscle or body aches	
Headache	
Sore throat	
Fatigue	
Congestion or runny nose (new)	
Nausea or vomiting	
Diarrhea	

When can my child go back to school?

You **do not** need a signed doctor's note for your child to re-enter school.

- If your child **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 school after:
 - Your child has had no fever for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine. **AND**
 - Your child feels better, **and** their symptoms are improving.
 - If the test results are **POSITIVE**, they can go back to school after:
 - It has been 24 hours of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, **AND**
 - Other symptoms have improved, **AND**
 - At least 10 days have passed since any symptoms appeared.
- If your child **did not** have a COVID-19 test because they only had one of the symptoms in the yellow box above, they can go back to school when:
 - Your child has had no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine **AND**
 - Your child has felt better for at least 24 hours (symptoms are improved or gone).
- If your child had any symptom in the red box or two or more symptoms in the yellow box but was not seen by their health care professional and did not have a COVID-19 test, they can go back to school after:
 - It has been 24 hours of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, **AND**
 - Other symptoms have improved, **AND**
 - At least 10 days have passed since any symptoms appeared.

This document was adapted with permission from the [Rhode Island Department of Health](#)

[COVID-19 in Pediatric Patients \(Pre-K – Grade 12\) Triage, Evaluation, Testing and Return to School](#)

[A Strong and Healthy Start: Safety and Health Guidance for Vermont Schools](#)