

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 school?

- If your child has any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed below, keep them home from school and call the school to report their absence.
- If your child has any COVID-19 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.
- You are encouraged to sign a consent form that allows information to be shared between your child's school nurse (when available) and healthcare provider when your child is sick.
- Decisions about when a student may return to school should be made with the school nurse, the student's healthcare provider, and the family. These decisions ensure the health and safety of your child's school and 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 COVID-19 symptoms for **longer than 24 hours**, they should obtain a COVID-19 PCR test. Communicate the plan with your child's school nurse or designated personnel.
- 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 school?

You **do not** need a signed doctor's note for your child to go back to school.

- If your child has illness symptoms for **less than 24 hours**, they can go back to school 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.

# Return to School Following Illness COVID-19 Information for Families

August 2021

- If the test results are **NEGATIVE**, they can go back to school 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 school 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 (listed on page one) lasting **longer than 24 hours** and **did not** have a COVID-19 test but **an alternative diagnosis was made** by health care provider, they can go back to school 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 (listed on page one) lasting **longer than 24 hours** and **did not** have a COVID-19 test and **no alternative diagnosis was made**, they can go back to school after:
  - It has been at 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.