

- School nurses may use LAMP or antigen tests to test symptomatic individuals in school
  - Schools will require consent from families to do in-school testing
    - If a student does not have written consent to do in-school testing, the school nurse may call the parent or guardian to obtain verbal consent to perform in-school testing.
    - If the parent does not consent to in-school testing, the symptomatic student will need to be sent home. It is recommended that symptomatic students undergo COVID-19 testing. If COVID-19 testing is not done, the student may return to school if their symptoms have improved, and they have been fever-free for 24+ hours without the use of medication.
  - If the LAMP or antigen test is positive for COVID-19, the student or staff will be required to be sent home. The student should be placed in an isolation room and wear a mask until they are picked up by a parent or guardian. VDH guidance for [isolation](#) should be followed.
  - If the LAMP or antigen test is negative, but the clinical symptoms are indicative of another potential illness and they are not well enough to learn or participate, the student or staff should be sent home from school. A student may be required to wear a mask while awaiting pick up from school to prevent spread of illness to others. This decision should be made by the school nurse based upon clinical decision-making.
  - If the LAMP or antigen test is negative, and the student or staff is presenting with mild symptoms (i.e., runny nose or headache) that may be attributable to another diagnosis (i.e., allergies) the student or staff may return to class. This decision should be made by the school nurse based upon clinical decision-making.
  - If antigen tests are used as a diagnostic tool on a symptomatic student or staff in school, a second test should be sent home with the student or staff so it may be repeated before the start of school the next day by the parent or guardian, or the staff member. However, testing is not required to attend school.
  - In general, COVID re-infection within 90 days of original infection is rare. LAMP tests should not be used on people who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days. Newly symptomatic students or staff who have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days may use an antigen test.
- Return to school post COVID-19 infection
  - A student or staff member may return to school after their 5 days of [isolation](#) if their symptoms have improved and they have been fever-free for 24+ hours without the use of medication
- Return to school after a non-COVID-19 related illness
  - A student or staff member may return to school if their symptoms have improved, and they have met school criteria for that illness (e.g., it has been more than 24 hours without fever, diarrhea, or vomiting).
- If a student does not attend school due to illness, their parent/guardian may access LAMP or rapid antigen tests by picking them up at school. The parent/guardian can perform 1 LAMP test or 2 antigen tests on the symptomatic student. Antigen tests should be taken as close to 24

hours apart as possible. These tests can also be used for testing symptomatic individuals, or close contacts in the home who may not be fully up to date with their vaccinations. Parents/guardians may contact a Primary Care Provider or state testing site to access PCR testing.

- Schools should continue to have access to isolation spaces if a student needs to isolate due to illness.
- School nurses should follow CDC's [Infection Control](#) recommendations for healthcare providers while in the health office.

## Resources

- [COVID-19 | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov)
- [What to Do if You Test Positive for COVID-19 | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov)
- [What to Do if You Are a Close Contact | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov)
- [Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov)
- [COVID-19 Resource Center | Agency of Education \(vermont.gov\)](https://vermont.gov)
- [VCHIP 2022 COVID Return-to-Play](#)
- [VCHIP 2022 Return-to-Play Algorithm](#)