NYSDOH COVID-19 In-Person Decision Making Flowchart for Student Attendance
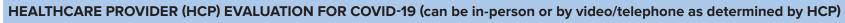
Can My Child Go To School Today?

In the past 10 days, has your child been tested for the virus that causes COVID-19, also known as SARS-CoV-2?

YES → **NO** →

Was the test result positive OR are you still waiting for the result?

YES ↓

Your child **cannot** go to school today.

They must stay in isolation (at home and away from others) until 10 days have passed from symptom onset with at least 72 hours after recovery (with resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications) if waiting for the results **OR** if **positive**, the local health department has released your child from isolation.

In the last 10 days, has your child:

- Traveled internationally to a **CDC level 2 or higher COVID-19 related travel health notice country;** or
- Traveled to a noncontiguous state; or
- Been designated a contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 by a local health department?

NO →

YES ↓

Your child **cannot** go to school today unless:

- For travelers, they have quarantined for 10 days or met the criteria to test out of the 10-day quarantine period.
- For children designated as a contact, until the local health department releases your child from quarantine (at least 10 days).

If your child received a COVID test within 72 hours prior to arriving in NY, they must quarantine for 3 days and can test on the 4th day after arrival. Students who receive a second negative result can return to school.

Does your child currently have (or has had in the last 10 days) one or more of these new or worsening symptoms?

- A temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° F (37.8° C)
- Feel feverish or have chills
- Cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue/feeling of tiredness
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headaches
- Nasal congestion/ runny nose

YES ↓

Your child **cannot** go to school today.

Your child should be assessed by their pediatric healthcare provider (HCP). Call your child's HCP before going to the office or clinic to tell them about your child's symptoms. If your child does not have a HCP, call your local health department.

NO ↓

Your child CAN go to school today.

Make sure they wear a face covering or face mask, practice social distancing, and remind them to wash their hands!

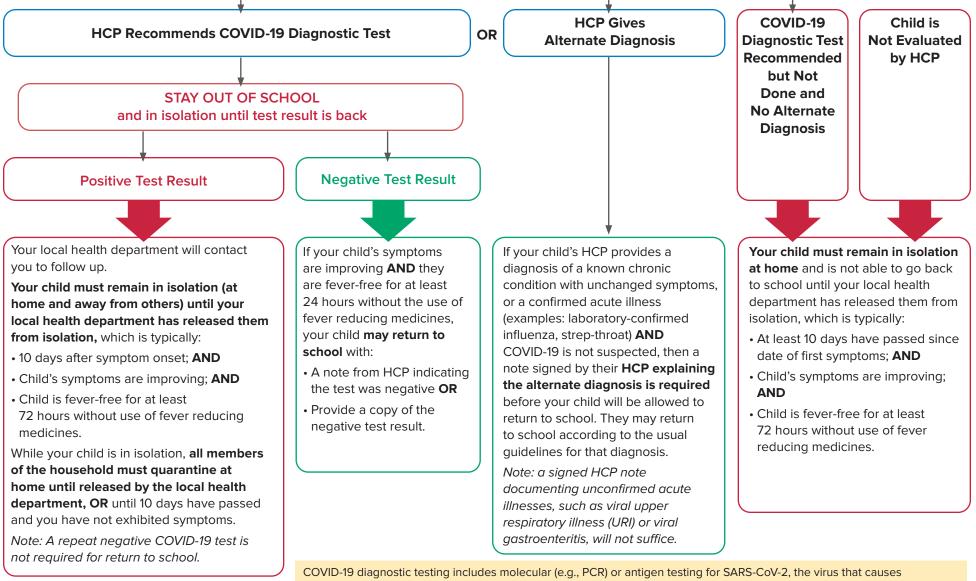Report absences, symptoms, and positive COVID-19 test results to your child's school.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

- Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
- Prolonged fever
- Is too sick to drink fluids
- Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
- Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
- Racing heart or chest pain
- Decreased urine output
- Lethargy, irritability, or confusion

My child has COVID-19 symptoms. When can they go back to school?

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (HCP) EVALUATION FOR COVID-19 (can be in-person or by video/telephone as determined by HCP)

HCP Recommends COVID-19 Diagnostic Test OR **HCP Gives Alternate Diagnosis**

COVID-19 Diagnostic Test Recommended but Not Done and No Alternate Diagnosis

Child is Not Evaluated by HCP

STAY OUT OF SCHOOL
and in isolation until test result is back

Positive Test Result

Negative Test Result

Your local health department will contact you to follow up.

Your child must remain in isolation (at home and away from others) until your local health department has released them from isolation, which is typically:

- 10 days after symptom onset; **AND**
- Child's symptoms are improving; **AND**
- Child is fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

While your child is in isolation, **all members of the household must quarantine at home until released by the local health department, OR** until 10 days have passed and you have not exhibited symptoms.

Note: A repeat negative COVID-19 test is not required for return to school.

If your child's symptoms are improving **AND** they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines, your child **may return to school** with:

- A note from HCP indicating the test was negative **OR**
- Provide a copy of the negative test result.

If your child's HCP provides a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (examples: laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) **AND** COVID-19 is not suspected, then a note signed by their **HCP explaining the alternate diagnosis is required** before your child will be allowed to return to school. They may return to school according to the usual guidelines for that diagnosis.

Note: a signed HCP note documenting unconfirmed acute illnesses, such as viral upper respiratory illness (URI) or viral gastroenteritis, will not suffice.

Your child must remain in isolation at home and is not able to go back to school until your local health department has released them from isolation, which is typically:

- At least 10 days have passed since date of first symptoms; **AND**
- Child's symptoms are improving; **AND**
- Child is fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

*** WE DO NOT ACCEPT HOME TESTS OR "DO IT YOURSELF" TESTS. PCR TEST IS REQUIRED IF SYMPTOMATIC. ***

COVID-19 diagnostic testing includes molecular (e.g., PCR) or antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Diagnostic testing may be performed with a nasopharyngeal swab, nasal swab, or saliva sample, as ordered by the health care provider and per laboratory specifications. At times, a negative antigen test will need to be followed up with a confirmatory molecular test. Serology (antibody testing) cannot be used to rule in or out acute COVID-19.