

# COVID-19 DECISION TREE

## FOR PEOPLE IN SCHOOLS, YOUTH, AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

Follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or was exposed to COVID-19.

### SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

#### INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

#### PATH 1

##### FOR PEOPLE WITH 1 OR MORE SYMPTOM REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS

Person stays home or goes home. The person should be tested by COVID-19 rapid antigen or PCR test. Person should consider an evaluation from a health care provider or contact a school nurse for further guidance.

Does not seek evaluation or COVID-19 test from a health care provider

**RECEIVES** Positive COVID-19 rapid antigen test or PCR test result.

**RECEIVES:** Negative COVID-19 rapid antigen or PCR test result **OR** alternative diagnosis

Siblings/household contacts do not need to stay home or quarantine.

Return to school or programs after symptoms improve and fever free 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

**ISOLATION:** Stay at home in isolation for a full 5 days from the first day of symptoms (day 0) until symptoms improve AND no fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication). If the person has no symptoms but tests positive, the person should stay home for a full 5 days from the day of testing (day 0). Return to school with strict use of a well-fitting mask on days 6-10.\* When the individual's mask is down, such as at lunchtime, the individual should maintain 6 ft. of distance from others as much as possible. It is preferred that the individual do rapid antigen testing upon return on day 6, if possible. The individual should be evaluated by a health care provider prior to returning to school if the person was hospitalized, had trouble breathing or is immunocompromised. After isolation, if the symptoms recur or worsen then restart isolation at day 0 and see a health care provider or contact a school nurse for further guidance.

Siblings/household contacts that cannot isolate themselves from a positive COVID-19 case should wear a well fitted mask, preferably a KN95 or N95 mask, when attending school during a 20-day period starting from the infected person's day 0. (10 days for the infected person's isolation plus an additional 10 days). The household contact should test with a rapid antigen or PCR test on day 6 and on day 16, if possible.

If a household contact develops symptoms, then follow **PATH 1**.

If a household contact tests positive, then follow instructions in **ISOLATION** box.

\* The mask worn during days 6-10 should be a KN95 or N95 mask.

#### PATH 2

##### FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE A CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19.

A close contact is a person who was within 6 feet for 15 consecutive minutes or longer.

**EXCEPTION:** Students within 6 feet of an infected student are not to be considered close contacts if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitted masks the entire time.

Wear a well-fitting mask for 10 full days with day 0 being the last day of exposure. The exposed individual should test with a rapid antigen test or PCR test on day 6.

Use a rapid antigen test rather than a PCR Test if tested positive within the past 90 days.

If test positive, then follow instructions in **ISOLATION** box.

If becomes symptomatic, then follow **PATH 1**.

#### SCREENING TESTS:

If an asymptomatic person that is not considered a close contact tests positive after a screening test, then the person must isolate at home as per the instructions in the **ISOLATION** box.

**ARE YOUR VACCINATIONS UP-TO-DATE?** An individual's status as Up-to-Date with COVID-19 vaccinations depends upon the individual's age, health status and brand of vaccination.

Please visit the CDC's website to determine your vaccination status at:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html#recommendations](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html#recommendations).

For COVID-19 vaccinations for the immunocompromised visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>



References: CDC, PA Dept of Health, Allegheny County Health Dept, Updated 8/16/2022. As the CDC changes guidelines based on the fluidity of COVID-19, there may be updates to the decision tree.