COVID-19 in Pediatric Patients (Pre-K - Grade 12)
Triage, Evaluation, Testing and Return to School*

*This algorithm was developed in the setting of Vermont’s low prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Virus. This is a changing environment, and as we gain new knowledge about this virus, expect adaptations.

Exposure to known COVID 19+ patient or high-risk travel?¹

Yes

Any of following symptoms? Fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, lack of smell/taste, diarrhea, fatigue, muscle aches, headache

Yes

Consult medical home to arrange COVID PCR test

Negative Test²

Exposure in home?

Yes

Return to school when: quarantine complete; timing depends on exposure risk; consult VDH at (802) 863-7240 (option 3 daytime, option 7 after hours).

No

Return to school when: ≥ 24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms improved

Positive Test

No

Return to school when: ≥ 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and ≥ 24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms improved

Exposure in home?

Yes

Return to school when: finished 14-day quarantine, which begins after person with latest onset of symptoms clears infection (10 days from onset, fever resolved ≥ 24 hr, symptom resolution)

Option 1: Isolate away from infected person in household / leave household and then Option A or B

No

Option A: 14-day quarantine

Option B: COVID PCR test on day 7 if asymptomatic

Negative Test

Return to school when 10 days after test, if still asymptomatic

Positive Test

Return to school when: ≥ 24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms improved and 14 days passed since last exposure

Option 2: Remain in household

Return to school when: ≥ 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and ≥ 24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms improved

²If highly suspect COVID, may repeat test in 24 hours

¹Exposure/travel: had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19; or traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large number of cases of COVID-19 https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel. High-risk travel also includes travel to a “green” area via public transportation (e.g., airplane, bus)
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**Exposure to known COVID 19+ patient or high-risk travel?**

- **Yes:** see page 1
- **No**

**Any of following symptoms?** Fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, lack of smell/taste, diarrhea, fatigue, muscle aches, headache

- **Yes**
  - Fever (≥100.4 F) and cough and/or runny nose or
  - Cough/SOB without fever or
  - Loss of taste or smell without fever
  - Consult medical home to arrange COVID PCR test

- **No**
  - Family encouraged to call medical home to determine need for COVID PCR test

**Negative Test**

- **Return to school when:**
  - ≥24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms improved

**Positive Test**

- **Return to school when:**
  - ≥10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and
  - ≥24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms improved

**Negative Test**

- **Return to school when:**
  - ≥24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms have improved

**No test but alternative diagnosis made**

- **Return to school when:**
  - ≥24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms have improved

**No test and no alternative diagnosis**

- **Return to school when:**
  - ≥10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and
  - ≥24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms improved

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1 Exposure/travel: had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19; or traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large number of cases of COVID-19 https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel. High-risk travel also includes travel to a “green” area via public transportation (e.g., airplane, bus)
2 Consult usual infectious disease protocols (e.g. Red Book or Caring for Our Children)
3 Rash alone, including purple toes, is not currently a CDC listed symptom of acute COVID-19 infection
4 Parent/caregivers may consult medical home for persistent symptoms