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

- No: see page 2
- Yes:

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

- Yes:
  - Consult medical home to arrange COVID PCR test
  - Negative Test:
    - 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) or negative PCR test at day 7 of quarantine.
      - No: Return to school when: ≥ 24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms improved
  - Positive Test:
    - Exposure in home?
      - Yes: Option 1: Isolate away from infected person in household / leave household and then Option A or B
      - No: Option 2: Remain in household

- No:
  - Exposure in home?
    - Yes: Option A: 14-day quarantine
    - No: Option B: COVID PCR test on day 7 if asymptomatic

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. High-risk travel also includes travel to a “green” area via public transportation (e.g., airplane, bus).

2 If highly suspect COVID, may repeat test in 24 hours.
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Exposure to known COVID 19+ patient or high-risk travel?1

Yes: see page 1

No

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

Yes

• Fever (≥100.4 F) and cough and/or runny nose or
• Cough or SOB without fever or
• Loss of taste or smell without fever

Consult medical home to arrange COVID PCR test

No

• Fever (≥100.4 F) with either sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle aches, headache, and/or fatigue, or
• Fever alone that persists >24 hours or
• Any combination of sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle aches, headache, fatigue, and runny nose

Family encouraged to call medical home to determine need for COVID PCR test

Yes

• Any one of the following: fever lasting <24 hours that resolves without antipyretics, sore throat, runny nose, muscle aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache3

No test but alternative diagnosis made5

Positive Test

Return to school when: ≥24 hours after symptom improvement or resolution4

Negative Test

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

No test and no alternative diagnosis5

Negative Test

Return to school when: ≥24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms have improved2

Positive Test

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

No test and alternative diagnosis made6

Negative Test

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

Positive Test

Return to school when: ≥24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms have improved2

No test and alternative diagnosis made6

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

Yes: see page 1

≥ 24 days after symptom improvement or resolution

≥ 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and ≥24 hours afebrile without the use of antipyretics and symptoms improved

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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)

Consult usual infectious disease protocols (e.g. Red Book or Caring for Our Children)

Rash alone, including purple toes, is not currently a CDC listed symptom of acute COVID-19 infection

Parent/caregivers may consult medical home for persistent symptoms

Routine testing of otherwise healthy outpatients for influenza is strongly discouraged this season, in order to preserve testing capacity for SARS-CoV-2. For additional information, please refer to current health department health alerts (HAN) or guidelines for influenza testing.

Current as of September 14th, 2020

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