

# COVID-19 EXCLUSION GUIDANCE<sup>1</sup>

## Decision Tree for Symptomatic Individuals in Pre-K, K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs



Send home or deny entry (and provide remote instruction) if ANY of the following symptoms are present: Fever (100.4°F or higher), headache, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain.

In addition, some individuals (especially adults) may present with the following symptoms:  
congestion or runny nose, new loss of sense of taste or smell, nausea, fatigue, muscle or body aches.

**Medical Evaluation and Testing are Strongly Recommended for ALL Persons with COVID-Like Symptoms.**

| Status                                     | COVID-19 diagnostic test Positive (confirmed case) OR COVID-19 diagnosis without diagnostic testing (probable case)   | Symptomatic individual with a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test <sup>2</sup><br><i>(Negative COVID-19 diagnostic test must be from a specimen collected 48 hours prior to or after symptom onset.)</i>   | Symptomatic individual with an alternative diagnosis without negative COVID-19 diagnostic test <sup>2</sup>  | Symptomatic individual without diagnostic testing or clinical evaluation   | Asymptomatic individual who is a close contact to a confirmed OR probable COVID-19 case  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Evaluated by Healthcare Provider?          | YES   | YES / NO   | YES  | NO   | NA   |
| Return to School Guidance                  | <u>Stay home</u> at least ten <sup>2</sup> calendar days from onset of symptoms <b>AND</b> for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) <b>AND</b> improvement of symptoms. | <u>Stay home</u> until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition. Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and <a href="#">IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools</a> . | <u>Stay home</u> until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition. Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and <a href="#">IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools</a> . | <u>Stay home</u> at least 10 <sup>3</sup> calendar days from onset of symptoms <b>AND</b> for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) <b>AND</b> improvement of symptoms. | Stay home for 14 calendar days after last exposure to the COVID-19 case. If COVID-19 illness develops, use the ten-day isolation period <sup>1</sup> guidance for a COVID-19 case from the onset date. Testing is recommended. |
| Quarantine for Close Contacts?             | YES   | NO   | NO   | Household Member (e.g., Siblings, Parent) <sup>4</sup>   | NA   |
| Documentation Required to Return to School | 'Release from Isolation' letter issued by Local Health Department and provided to parent/guardian or individual   | Negative COVID-19 test result OR healthcare Provider's note indicating the negative test result  | Healthcare Provider's note with alternative diagnosis  | Note from parent/guardian documenting that the ill student and/or household contacts are afebrile without fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved.                              | 'Release from Quarantine' letter issued by Local Health Department and provided to parent/guardian or individual   |

<sup>1</sup> Based on available data and science, schools must make local decisions informed by local context in consultation with their local public health department.

<sup>2</sup> Severely immunocompromised or severely ill: may need to isolate for 20 days as per guidance from individual's infectious disease physician.

<sup>3</sup> If individual has been identified by public health for quarantine or knows they are a close contact to a case, the 14-calendar-day quarantine must be completed.

<sup>4</sup> Consider quarantine for other close contacts if there was poor adherence to social distancing or use of face coverings.