



COVID-19 Return to School Protocols

When should students stay home and when can they return to school?

SITUATION	YOUR CHILD MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL	REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
Positive COVID-19 Test		
Has your child had a positive COVID-19 test?	After 10-day isolation AND 24 hours without fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement in symptoms.	None
Symptoms and Known Exposure		
Does your child have COVID-19 symptoms after recent exposure to an individual with confirmed COVID-19?	After 10-day isolation AND 24 hours without fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement in symptoms.	None
Known Exposure		
<p>Has your child been within six feet for 15 minutes or greater to an individual with suspected or confirmed COVID-19?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Household Contacts</p> <p>Unvaccinated household contacts click here or go to btcs.org>COVID-19 Information>Return to School Protocols>Quarantine Guidelines for Unvaccinated Household Contacts.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDH and CDC recommend a 14-day quarantine starting the day after the last exposure to the positive case. Acceptable alternatives include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. After Day 10 (returning to regular activities on Day 11) without testing if the contact does not have symptoms. b. After Day 7 (returning to regular activities on Day 8) if the contact does not have symptoms and if they test negative by a PCR or antigen test collected on or after Day 5. 2. PREVIOUS CASES are not required to quarantine if they meet all the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Had COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months and ▪ Have recovered and ▪ Remain without COVID-19 symptoms 3. VACCINATED PERSONS are not required to quarantine or be tested if they meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They are fully vaccinated *(≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose in a single dose vaccine) and ▪ Have remained asymptomatic since the exposure to COVID-19. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. None <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. None b. Proof of negative COVID-19 test on or after Day 5 following last exposure to positive case. 2. Proof of previous positive COVID-19 test result. 3. None

SITUATION	YOUR CHILD MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL	REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
<p>Does your child have no known exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 AND only ONE low-risk symptom:</p> <p>LOW-RISK SYMPTOMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Congestion/runny nose ▪ Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea ▪ Sore throat ▪ Headache ▪ Body aches 	<p>After improvement of symptoms.</p>	<p>None</p>
No Known Exposure AND 2+ Low-Risk OR 1+ High-Risk Symptom		
<p>Does your child have no known exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 AND TWO or more of the following low-risk OR ONE or more of the following high-risk symptoms?</p> <p>LOW-RISK SYMPTOMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Congestion/runny nose ▪ Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea ▪ Sore throat ▪ Headache ▪ Body aches <p>HIGH-RISK SYMPTOMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cough ▪ Difficulty breathing ▪ Loss of taste/smell ▪ Fever 100.0 or greater 	<p>THREE OPTIONS FOR WHEN YOUR CHILD MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After 24 hours without a fever (without fever-reducing medication) <u>AND</u> improvement in symptoms with a negative COVID-19 test after symptoms began. <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. After 24 hours without a fever (without fever-reducing medication) <u>AND</u> improvement in symptoms with written documentation from a licensed medical provider with a diagnosis that the symptoms were caused by a condition other than COVID-19. See examples of acceptable diagnoses in third column. <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. After 10-day isolation AND 24 hours without a fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement in symptoms. 	<p>DOCUMENTATION BASED UPON RETURN TO SCHOOL OPTION CHOSEN IN COLUMN 2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test after symptoms began. 2. Documentation from licensed medical provider with an acceptable diagnosis that symptoms were caused by a condition other than COVID-19. <p><i>Examples of acceptable diagnoses include fever due to urinary tract infection, strep (confirmed by a positive strep test), rash from poison ivy, etc. Diagnoses of respiratory and viral conditions such as allergic rhinitis, seasonal allergies, upper respiratory tract infection (URI), pneumonia, pharyngitis, viral illness, etc., DO NOT exclude the diagnosis of COVID-19 and DO NOT justify return to school.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. No documentation required.

Sources:

The procedures in the above chart are based on the Return to School Algorithm from the Tennessee Department of Health:
https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/TDH_Return_to_School_Algorithm.pdf

The Tennessee Department of Health's specific guidelines for releasing individuals from isolation and quarantine are detailed on the following website:
<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/Isolation-QuarantineRelease.pdf>