

COVID-19: When a student, faculty or staff member can return to school



Individual	Symptomatic	No Symptoms
Not Tested with Alternate Explanation (strep, influenza, etc. as determined by a provider)	May return to school after 24 hours resolution of fever AND note (including email and fax) from provider stating the individual has an alternate diagnosis and the provider believes it's appropriate for the patient to return to school.	N/A
Not Tested Without Alternate Explanation	Must remain home for at least 10 days from the first day symptoms appeared AND 72 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medicine and with improvement of respiratory symptoms.	N/A
Tested and Negative	If no alternative explanation, <i>isolate</i> for at least 10 days from the first day symptoms appeared AND 72 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medications and with improvement of respiratory symptoms. The test may have been a false negative. The individual can return to school if tested negative AND with a note from the provider stating they believe the patient to have an alternate diagnosis and it's appropriate for the patient to return to school. <i>(ISDH strongly recommends the time-based strategy versus the two-test strategy, which is under review by the CDC.)</i>	May proceed with attending school. EXCEPTION: A known close contact (within 6 feet of a confirmed case for more than 15 minutes) must complete a 14-day <i>quarantine</i> , even if test results are negative for COVID-19.
Tested and Positive	Must remain home in <i>isolation</i> for at least 10 days from the date symptoms began AND 72 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medications and improvement of respiratory symptoms.	<i>Isolate</i> at home for 10 days from the day the test was taken. <i>*If the individual develops symptoms, then isolation time starts on day 1 of symptoms (see symptomatic tests positive.)</i>
Close Contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of someone with confirmed COVID-19)	N/A If an individual becomes symptomatic, refer to the symptomatic scenarios. The individual must <i>quarantine</i> for 14 days after contact with the COVID-19 Positive person even if the student has an alternate diagnosis for symptoms.	<i>Quarantine</i> for 14 days before returning to school. Must remain symptom-free. If individual develops symptoms, then refer to the symptomatic scenarios.

Note: QUARANTINE keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.
ISOLATION keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.