



Return to School Matrix

Note: Criteria below represent standard criteria to return to school. In all cases, individual guidance from DC Health or a healthcare provider would supersede these criteria.

Scenario	Criteria to Return
<p>1. COVID-19 symptoms¹</p> <p>Requires exclusion until return criteria are met.</p> <p><i>Recommend the individual seek healthcare guidance to determine if COVID-19 testing is indicated.</i></p>	<p>Individual is Unvaccinated, Partially Vaccinated, Fully Vaccinated,² or Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days</p> <hr/> <p><u>Option 1: The individual is tested:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If positive, see Scenario 2. • If negative, see Scenario 3. <p><u>Option 2: The individual is not tested:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit documentation from a healthcare provider of an alternate diagnosis and meet standard criteria to return after illness (the individual school’s existing policies and protocols for a student or employee to return to school after illness). <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet COVID-19 symptom-based criteria to return: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g., Motrin, Tylenol) and symptoms have improved; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After at least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared, whichever is later.

¹ Students or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19-like symptoms must not be excluded from entering the school building on the basis of those specific symptoms, if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19.

² A person is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after they complete a primary COVID-19 vaccination series (after the second dose of a two-dose series, or after one dose of a single-dose vaccine).

<p>2. Positive COVID-19 Test Result (Antigen or NAAT [e.g., PCR])</p> <p>Requires exclusion until return criteria are met.</p>	<p>Individual is Unvaccinated, Partially Vaccinated, Fully Vaccinated, or Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days</p> <p><u>If symptomatic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After at least 10 days after symptoms first appeared, AND • At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g., Motrin, Tylenol) and symptoms have improved. <p><u>If asymptomatic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After at least 10 days from positive test. <p><u>Note: If an antigen test was administered as part of the school’s asymptomatic screening testing program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals with a positive antigen screening test must be treated as presumptively positive and isolate while awaiting confirmatory NAAT (e.g., PCR) test results.
<p>3. Negative COVID-19 Test Result After Symptoms of COVID-19</p> <p>Requires exclusion until return criteria are met.</p>	<p>Individual is Unvaccinated, Partially Vaccinated, Fully Vaccinated, or Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days</p> <p><u>If negative NAAT (e.g., PCR) test:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet standard criteria to return after illness (the individual school’s existing policies and protocols for a student or employee to return to school after illness). <p><u>If negative antigen test:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should confirm result with a NAAT (e.g., PCR) test. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The individual <u>should</u> not attend school until the NAAT (e.g., PCR) test result returns.
<p>4. Written or Verbal Documentation from Healthcare Provider of Alternate Diagnosis After Symptoms of COVID-19</p>	<p>Individual is Unvaccinated, Partially Vaccinated, Fully Vaccinated, or Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet standard criteria to return after illness (the individual school’s existing policies and protocols for a student or employee to return to school after illness).

<p>5. Asymptomatic Close Contact of an Individual with Confirmed COVID-19</p> <p>Requires exclusion until return criteria are met.</p>	<p>Individual is Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated</p>	<p>Individual is Fully Vaccinated or Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days</p>
	<p><u>If able to isolate from COVID-19 positive individual:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a minimum of 7 days from last exposure to the COVID-19 positive individual IF no symptoms and tested for COVID-19 on day 5 or later of the quarantine period AND receive a negative NAAT (e.g., PCR) test result. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not tested, after a minimum of 10 days from last exposure to COVID-19 positive individual, provided that no symptoms develop, or as instructed by DC Health. <p><u>If unable to isolate from COVID-19 positive individual:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a minimum of 7 days from the end of the COVID-19 positive individual’s infectious period (see Scenario 2) IF no symptoms and tested for COVID-19 on day 5 or later after the end of the COVID-19 positive individual’s infectious period AND receive a negative NAAT (e.g., PCR) test result. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a minimum of 10 days from the end of the COVID-19 positive individual’s infectious period (see Scenario 2), or as instructed by DC Health. 	<p><u>Fully vaccinated people</u> who do not have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 infection do not need to quarantine, but they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get a NAAT (e.g., PCR) COVID-19 test 5-7 days after the date they were exposed. They must isolate if the test is positive. • Consider wearing a mask at home for 14 days if they live with someone who is at higher risk of severe COVID-19 who is not fully vaccinated or who is immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status). • Monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days from their exposure. They must isolate if they develop symptoms. <p><u>Individuals who have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days</u>, do not need to quarantine if they do not have any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 infection.</p>

<p>6. Symptomatic Close Contact of an Individual with Confirmed COVID-19</p> <p>Requires exclusion until return criteria are met.</p>	<p>Individual is Unvaccinated, Partially Vaccinated, Fully Vaccinated, or Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a minimum of 10 days from when symptoms first appeared. 	
<p>7. Student or Staff Member Has a Symptomatic Household Member</p> <p>Requires exclusion if the symptomatic household member is a student or staff member.</p>	<p>Individual is Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated</p> <p><u>If the household member tests negative:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If NAAT (e.g., PCR) test, return immediately if the student or staff member has no symptoms of COVID-19 nor other exclusionary criteria met. • If antigen test, should confirm result with a NAAT (e.g., PCR) test. <p><u>If the household member tests positive (either NAAT [e.g., PCR] or antigen test):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Scenario 5. <p><u>If the household member does not get tested:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat the student or staff member as if the household member tested positive; see Scenario 5. 	<p>Individual is Fully Vaccinated or Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days</p> <p><u>Fully vaccinated people who do not have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 infection do not need to quarantine, but they should:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get a NAAT (e.g., PCR) COVID-19 test 5-7 days after the date they were first exposed <u>and</u> 5-7 days after the end of the person with COVID-19's isolation period. They must isolate if the test is positive. <p><u>Individuals who have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days,</u> do not need to quarantine if they do not have any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 infection.</p>

<p>8. Travel to Any Place Other than Maryland or Virginia</p> <p>Recommends exclusion until return criteria are met.</p>	<p>Individual is Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated</p>	<p>Individual is Fully Vaccinated or Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After at least 10 days from return to DC. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After at least 7 days, if tested for COVID-19 3-5 days after return and receive a negative result (either NAAT [e.g., PCR] or antigen test). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Even if the test is negative, the individual should not attend school for at least 7 days. 	<p>May return immediately if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19.</p> <p>Recommended to get a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after international travel (either NAAT [e.g., PCR] or antigen test).</p>