



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
EDUCATION

Return to Child Care Criteria After an Antigen Test

These antigen tests are an added safeguard to check that children returning after winter break do not have coronavirus (COVID-19). A negative antigen test must be confirmed with a negative PCR test except when a child produces a negative rapid result, has no symptoms and is not a close contact. Please follow these steps carefully.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT:

RED: STOP! DO NOT RETURN TO CHILD CARE

YELLOW: ADDITIONAL STEPS NEEDED

GREEN: SAFE TO RETURN TO CHILD CARE

STEP 1: TAKE THE TEST. See test kit for instructions and follow the instructions carefully. **COVID-19 rapid antigen self-tests are intended for use by individuals 15 years and older (self-collected) or 2 years and older (collected with adult assistance).**

STEP 2A: IF POSITIVE RESULT: DO NOT RETURN TO CHILD CARE

- Log the result with DC Health at coronavirus.dc.gov/overthecounter and notify your child care facility of the positive result.
- If child has symptoms of COVID-19: Isolate for at least 10 days from the day symptoms began.
- If child has no symptoms of COVID-19: Isolate for at least 10 days from the date they took the test.

STEP 2B: IF NEGATIVE: TAKE THESE NEXT STEPS BEFORE RETURNING TO CHILD CARE

Note: A child who is already required to quarantine **must** not return to child care before the end of their required quarantine period even if they test negative with the antigen test.

Many of these steps involve additional testing. Visit coronavirus.dc.gov/testing for walk-up sites or testyourself.dc.gov for a list of library and recreation center sites offering free grab-and-go PCR test yourself kits.

- Log the negative result with DC Health at coronavirus.dc.gov/overthecounter.
- If child has symptoms of COVID-19: Take a confirmatory PCR test.
- If child is not fully vaccinated and has been in close-contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19: Quarantine for at least 10 days after last date of exposure.¹
- If child is not fully vaccinated and has a sick household member: Stay home unless the household member tests negative with a PCR test.¹
- If child is not fully vaccinated and traveled to any place other than DC, MD, or VA: Recommended to take a confirmatory PCR test after at least 3-5 days from return to DC.
- If child has no symptoms and no known exposure to COVID-19: Return to child care immediately.

All children, regardless of vaccination status, who are experiencing new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 must not attend school without a negative PCR test or documentation from a healthcare provider of an alternate diagnosis.

If a symptomatic child does not provide a negative PCR test or documentation from a healthcare provider, then the child **must** not attend child care for at least 10 days from when symptoms began AND at least 24 hours after any fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g., Motrin, Tylenol) and symptoms have improved.

¹ Children who have had COVID-19 and recovered in the last 90 days and children who are fully vaccinated may return to child care immediately as long as they do not have symptoms of COVID-19.