



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
EDUCATION

Return to School Criteria After an Antigen Test

These antigen tests are an added safeguard to check that students returning after winter break do not have COVID-19. A negative antigen test must be confirmed with a negative PCR test except when a student 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 SCHOOL	YELLOW: ADDITIONAL STEPS NEEDED	GREEN: SAFE TO RETURN TO SCHOOL

STEP 1: TAKE THE TEST. See test kit for instructions and follow the instructions carefully.

STEP 2A: IF POSITIVE RESULT: DO NOT RETURN TO SCHOOL

- Log the result with DC Health at coronavirus.dc.gov/overthecounter and notify your school of the positive result.
- If student has symptoms of COVID-19: Isolate for at least 10 days from the day symptoms began.
- If student 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 SCHOOL

Note: A student who is already required to quarantine **must** not return to school 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 student has symptoms of COVID-19: Take a confirmatory PCR test.
- If student is not fully vaccinated and has been in close-contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19: Quarantine and take a confirmatory PCR test at least 5-7 days after last date of exposure.¹
- If student is not fully vaccinated and has a sick household member: Stay home unless the household member tests negative with a PCR test.¹
- If student 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 student has no symptoms and no known exposure to COVID-19: Return to school immediately.

All students, 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 student does not provide a negative PCR test or documentation from a healthcare provider, then the student **must** not attend school 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 Students who have had COVID-19 and recovered in the last 90 days and students who are fully vaccinated may return to school immediately as long as they do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

Antigen Test FAQs for Families



Read the instructions included within the kit carefully **BEFORE** beginning self-test



Follow **ALL** steps as instructed to complete self-test



Report your results using the QR Code or web address below. Also report any positive results to your school.



coronavirus.dc.gov/overthecounter

What is it? A rapid antigen self-test that detects the virus that causes COVID-19.

How long do results take? 15-30 minutes

How do I get the results? Your result will show on the testing card included in the kit within 15-30 minutes.

Why are there two tests in the box? To receive the most accurate results, you should take both tests. Take them at least 36 hours apart.

Does a student need a negative test result to return to school? Families should check with their Local Education Agency (LEA) on whether a negative test is required to return to school.

Why take the test? Taking the test before returning to school will help prevent students from bringing COVID-19 into schools and will help keep schools operating safely. Knowing your student's status will also help you protect yourself, your household and the community.

When to take the test? The student should take the test immediately upon receipt. The tests come with two nasal swabs to be used 36 hours apart. It may be tempting to only use one of the tests and save the other for a later date, but please use both tests on your student.

Who do I contact if I have questions? Families with questions about test administration or test results should contact their school.