



Return to School Matrix

Note: Criteria below represent standard criteria to return to care. 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><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; AND ○ At least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared, whichever is later.
<p>2. Positive COVID-19 Test Result (Antigen or PCR)</p> <p>Requires exclusion until return criteria are met.</p>	<p><u>If symptomatic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • 10 days from positive test.

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.

<p>3. Negative COVID-19 Test Result After Symptoms of COVID-19</p> <p>Requires exclusion until return criteria are met.</p>	<p><u>If negative 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"> • Confirm result with a PCR test. • The individual <u>must</u> not attend school until the PCR test result returns. 	
<p>4. Written or Verbal Documentation from Healthcare Provider of Alternate Diagnosis After Symptoms of COVID-19</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. Close Contact of an Individual with Confirmed COVID-19</p> <p>Requires exclusion until return criteria are met.</p>	<p>Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated</p> <p><u>If able to isolate from COVID-19 positive individual:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 7 days from last exposure to the COVID-19 positive individual IF asymptomatic and tested for COVID-19 on day 5 or later of the quarantine period AND receive a negative test result. OR • If not tested, 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"> • At least 10 days from the end of the COVID-19 positive individual’s infectious period (see Scenario #2), or as instructed by DC Health. 	<p>Fully Vaccinated or Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days</p> <p><u>Fully vaccinated people</u> do not need to quarantine, but they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after the date they were exposed. Isolate if the test is positive. • Consider wearing a mask at home for 14 days if they live with someone who is immunocompromised. • Monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days from their exposure, and 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>

6. Student or Staff Member Has a Symptomatic Household Member Awaiting a COVID-19 Test Result ²	Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated or Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days
	<p><u>If the household member tests negative:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return immediately if the student or staff member has no symptoms of COVID-19 nor other exclusionary criteria met. <p><u>If the household member tests positive:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Scenario #5. 	May return immediately.
7. Travel to Any Place Other than Maryland or Virginia	Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated or Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 days from return to DC. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven days, if tested for COVID-19 three to five days after return and received a negative result. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even if the test is negative, the individual should not attend school for seven days. 	<p>May return immediately.</p> <p>Recommended to get a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after international travel.</p>

² This guidance for an individual awaiting a COVID-19 test result should not apply in the circumstance of awaiting the result of a test administered through a formal screening or surveillance testing program.