



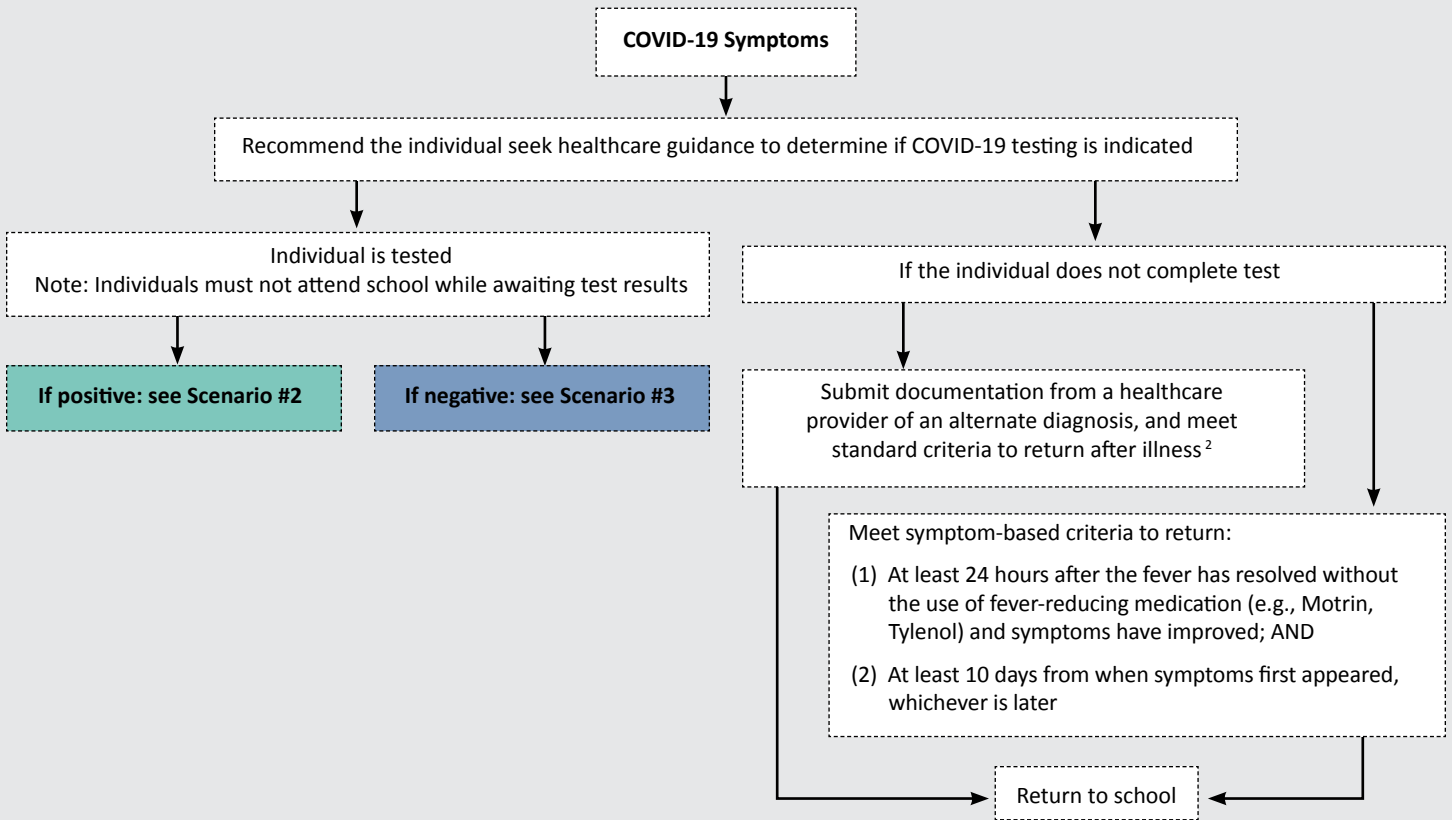
Office of the State Superintendent of Education

# RETURN TO SCHOOL CRITERIA

Note: These scenarios include the standard criteria to return to school for students and staff. Individual guidance from DC Health or a healthcare provider should always supersede these criteria. See page 4 of this document for special considerations for fully vaccinated individuals and for individuals who have recovered for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

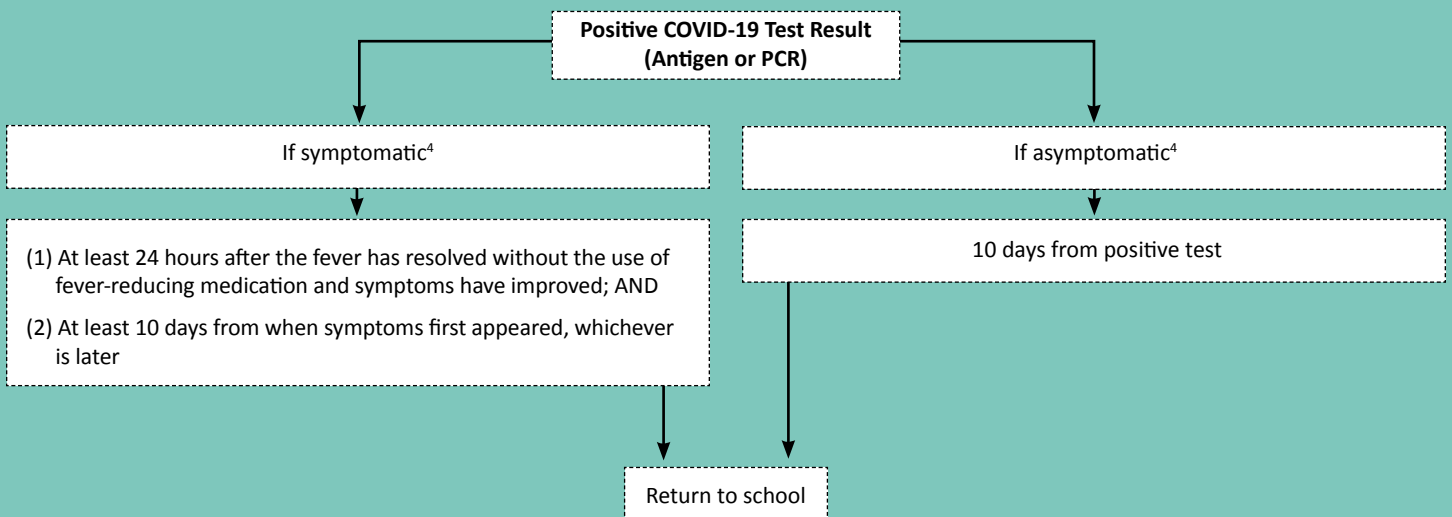
## Scenario 1: Student or Staff Member with COVID-19 Symptoms<sup>1</sup>

Note: This scenario requires exclusion until return criteria are met.



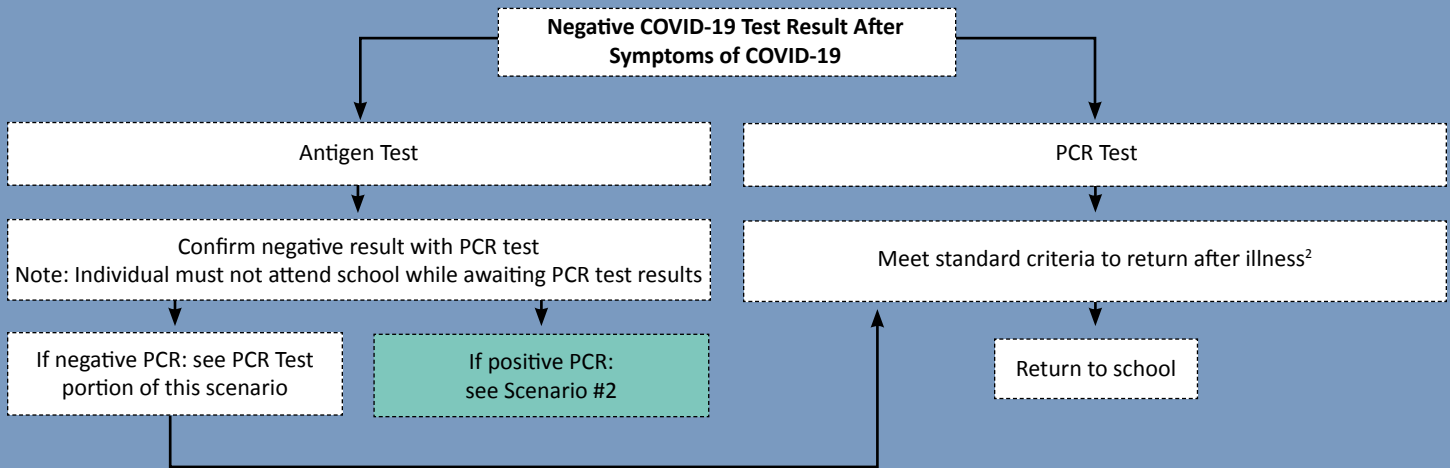
## Scenario 2: Student or Staff Member with a Positive COVID-19 Test Result<sup>3</sup>

Note: This scenario requires exclusion until return criteria are met.

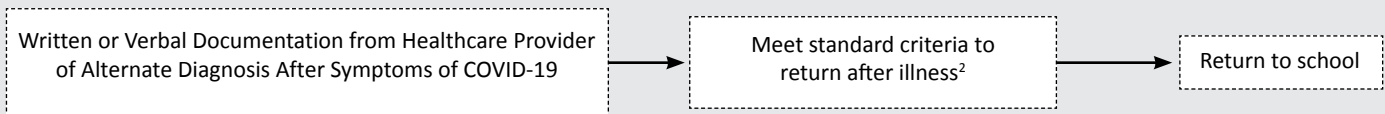


### Scenario 3: Student or Staff Member with a Negative COVID-19 Test Result After Symptoms of COVID-19

Note: This scenario requires exclusion until return criteria are met.



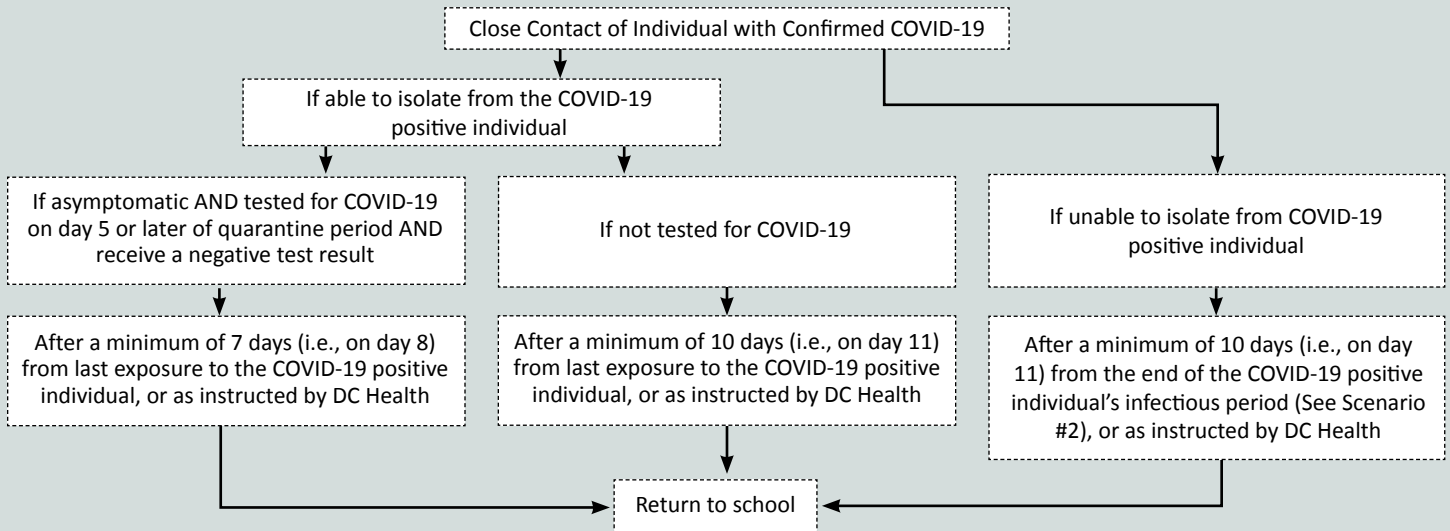
### Scenario 4: Student or Staff Member with Documentation from Healthcare Provider of Alternate Diagnosis After Symptoms of COVID-19



### Scenario 5: Student or Staff Member is a Close Contact of an Individual with Confirmed COVID-19<sup>5</sup>

Note: This scenario requires exclusion until return criteria are met.

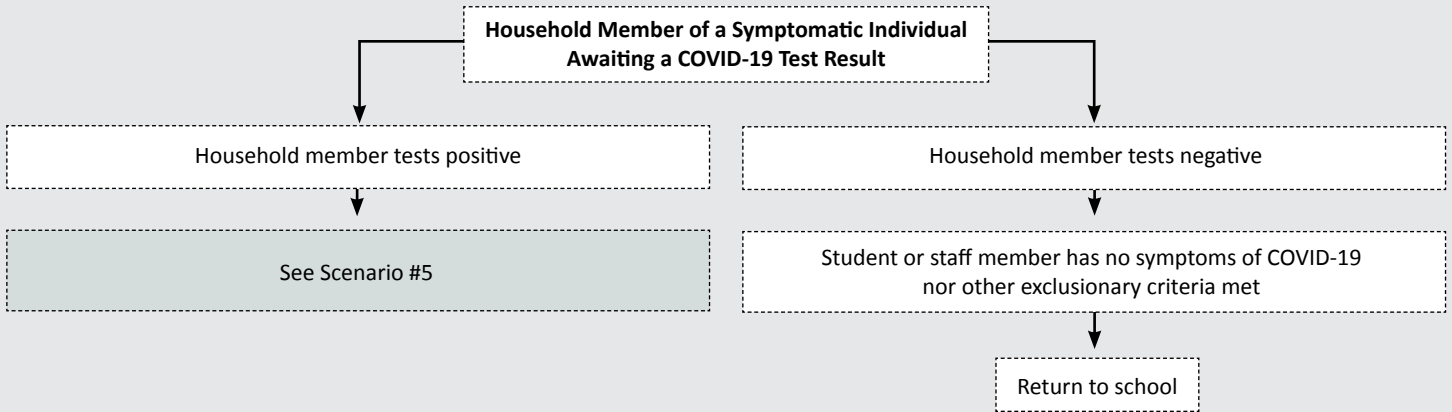
Note: See page 4 of this document for special considerations for fully vaccinated individuals and for individuals who have recovered for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.



## Scenario 6: Student or Staff Member is a Household Member of a Symptomatic Individual Awaiting a COVID-19 Test Result

Note: This scenario recommends exclusion until return criteria are met.

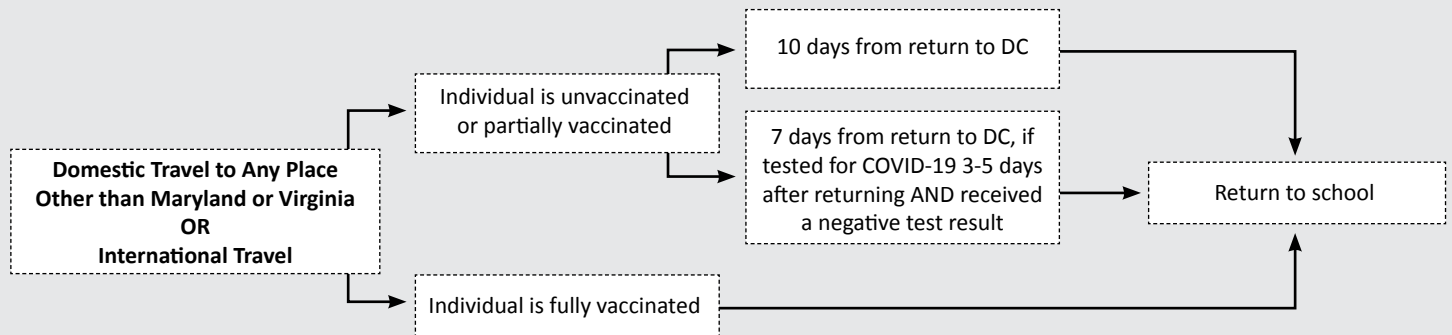
Note: See page 4 of this document for special considerations for fully vaccinated individuals and for individuals who have recovered for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.



## Scenario 7: Student or Staff Member Traveled Domestically or Internationally<sup>6</sup>

Note: This scenario recommends exclusion until return criteria are met.

Note: See page 4 of this document for special considerations for fully vaccinated individuals and for individuals who have recovered for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.



### Endnotes

- 1 See OSSE's COVID-19 Exclusion and Dismissal Criteria and Protocols for Schools for detailed information on symptom-based exclusion criteria. 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 Standard criteria to return after illness refers to the individual school's existing policies and protocols for a student or employee to return to school after illness.
- 3 See DC Health's Guidance for Persons Who Tested Positive for COVID-19 on [coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance) for more information.
- 4 Regardless of whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, close contacts (including all members of the household) must not attend school until they meet the criteria to return per Scenario #5.
- 5 DC Health strongly recommends that individuals who live or work with someone at higher-risk for COVID-19 quarantine for 14 days. See DC Health's Guidance for Quarantine after COVID-19 Exposure on [coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance) for more information.
- 6 For more detailed guidance related to returning from domestic and international travel, see DC Health's Guidance for travel at [coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance).

## Special Considerations

### Individuals who have Recently Recovered from COVID-19

Provided that they do not currently have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, an individual who has **tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days** may return to school immediately in the following circumstance:

1. After close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19,
2. When a symptomatic household member is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or
3. After travel.

Any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must follow Scenario #1.

### Individuals who are Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19

Provided that they do not currently have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, an individual who is **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 may return to school immediately in the following circumstances:

1. After close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19,
2. When a symptomatic household member is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or
3. After travel.

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

Any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must follow Scenario #1.

SEE ALSO OSSE'S COVID-19 EXCLUSION AND DISMISSAL CRITERIA AND PROTOCOLS FOR SCHOOLS AVAILABLE ON THE [OSSE WEBSITE](#).