Note: These scenarios include standard criteria to return to school for students and staff. Individual guidance from DC Health or a healthcare provider would always supersede these criteria.

Scenario 1: Student or Staff Member with COVID-19 Symptoms

1. If positive: see Scenario #2
2. If negative: see Scenario #3

COVID-19 Symptoms

Recommend the individual seek healthcare guidance to determine if COVID-19 testing is indicated

Individual is tested
Note: Individuals must quarantine while awaiting test results

If positive: see Scenario #2
If negative: see Scenario #3

If the individual does not complete test
Submit documentation from a healthcare provider of an alternate diagnosis, and meet standard criteria to return after illness

Meet symptom-based criteria to return:
(1) At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved; AND
(2) At least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared, whichever is later

Return to school

Scenario 2: Student or Staff Member with a Positive COVID-19 Test Result

1. If symptomatic:
   (1) At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved; AND
   (2) At least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared, whichever is later

2. If asymptomatic:
   10 days from positive test

Positive COVID-19 Test Result (Antigen or PCR)

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

If negative PCR: see PCR Test portion of this scenario

If positive PCR: see Scenario #2

PCR Test

Meet standard criteria to return after illness

Return to school

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

Documentation from Healthcare Provider of Alternate Diagnosis After Symptoms of COVID-19

Meet standard criteria to return after illness

Return to school

Scenario 5: Student or Staff Member is a Close Contact of an Individual with Confirmed COVID-19

If able to isolate from COVID-19 positive individual

A minimum of 10 days from last exposure to COVID-19 positive individual, or as instructed by DC Health

Return to school

If unable to isolate from COVID-19 positive individual

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

Return to school
Scenario 6: Student or Staff Member is a Close Contact of an Individual Awaiting a COVID-19 Test Result

- Close Contact of an Individual Awaiting a COVID-19 Test Result
  - Close contact tests positive
    - See Scenario #5
  - Close contact tests negative
    - Student or staff member has no symptoms of COVID-19 nor other exclusionary criteria met
      - Return to school

Scenario 7: Student or Staff Member Traveled to Any Place Other than Maryland, Virginia, or a Low-Risk State, Country, or Territory

- Travel to Any Place Other than Maryland, Virginia, or a Low-Risk State, Country, or Territory
  - Self-monitor and limit daily activities—including not attending school—for 14 days
  - Self-monitor and limit daily activities—including not attending school—until tested for COVID-19 (within 3-5 days after return) AND Receive a negative test result
    - Return to school

Endnotes
1. Students or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19–like symptoms may 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.
4. Regardless of whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, close contacts (including all members of the household) must quarantine for at least 10 days.
5. Some individuals, including those with severe illness, may have longer quarantine periods per DC Health or their healthcare provider.
6. Per Scenario #5, a negative test result after close contact with an individual with confirmed COVID-19 does not shorten the duration of quarantine of at least 10 days.
7. 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 for more information.