

# Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Persons with COVID-19-like Illness in Schools, Child Care Programs, and Youth Camps

**For the purposes of this decision aid, COVID-19-like illness is defined as: Any 1 of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, OR At least 2 of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher (measured or subjective), chills or shaking chills, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and congestion or runny nose.**

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with **1 new symptom not meeting the definition of COVID-19-like illness.**

Exclude person and allow return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication, **AND** criteria in the [Communicable Diseases Summary](#) have been met as applicable. **If person develops symptoms of COVID-19-like illness, follow processes below for person with COVID-19-like illness.**

An **asymptomatic person** (child, care provider, educator, other staff) who **tests positive for COVID-19 (confirmed case).**

The asymptomatic person (**confirmed case**) should stay home for 10 days from positive test.

**Close contacts** should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure **even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.**

**Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19-like illness:**

- **Exclude** person and recommend that they talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19 or whether there is another specific diagnosis (e.g. influenza, strep throat, otitis) or a pre-existing condition that explains symptoms.
- **The ill person should isolate pending test results or evaluation by their health care provider.**
- **If the ill person is a [probable case of COVID-19](#) (e.g., COVID-19-like illness and close contact with a person with COVID-19), **close contacts of the ill person should quarantine.****

The ill person has a positive rapid antigen test or RT-PCR for COVID-19 (**confirmed case**).

The ill person should stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** until no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication **AND** improvement of other symptoms.

If the ill person is still suspected of having COVID-19, close contacts should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure **even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.**

If COVID-19 is not suspected, close contacts **DO NOT need to stay home** as long as they remain asymptomatic.

The ill person has a negative rapid antigen test for COVID-19 without a confirmatory RT-PCR.

The ill person does not receive a test for COVID-19 or another specific diagnosis by their health care provider.

The ill person has a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19 **AND** had close contact with a person with COVID-19.

The ill person has a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19 and **NO** close contact with a person with COVID-19.

Health care provider documents that the ill person has another specific diagnosis **OR** that symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition **AND** the ill person had **NO** close contact with a person with COVID-19.

The ill person should stay home for 14 days and talk to their health care provider to determine if COVID-19 is still suspected and if another test is needed.

The ill person should stay home until symptoms have improved, no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication, **AND** criteria in the [Communicable Diseases Summary](#) have been met as applicable.

If symptoms do not improve, the ill person should talk to their health care provider to determine if they should be tested/retested for COVID-19.

**Close contacts of the ill person DO NOT need to stay home** as long as they remain asymptomatic.