

Return to School Guidance for Students and Staff with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

Published August 27, 2020

The date when a student or staff can return to school is determined by:

- If they are **confirmed** or **suspected** to have COVID-19, or are a **close contact** of someone with confirmed COVID-19 **AND**
- If they have or do not have symptoms **AND**
- If their symptoms have improved, if they do have symptoms

This guidance outlines when students or staff can return to school. Definitions of confirmed COVID-19, suspected COVID-19, and close contact are included below.

When people with **CONFIRMED COVID-19** can return to school

Confirmed COVID-19: a person (with or without symptoms) who received a positive result from a COVID-19 laboratory test.

If they have symptoms:		Example
1. 24 hours since fever goes away (without medications) AND	1. Date symptoms began: _____ a. +10 days: _____	1. April 1 a. April 11
2. 10 days since symptoms began AND	2. Date fever went away: _____ a. 24 hours after: _____	2. April 3 a. April 4
3. Other symptoms have improved	3. Date other symptoms improved: _____	3. April 9
The <i>latest</i> date is the day you can return to school		
If they do <u>not</u> have symptoms:		
1. 10 days since their COVID-19 test AND	1. Date of COVID test: _____ o +10 days: _____ [date you return to school]	
2. Have not developed symptoms		
More information available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention .		

When people with **SUSPECTED COVID-19** can return to school:

Have suspected COVID-19: a person who shows symptoms of COVID-19 and has not been tested or is waiting for test results.

If they are not tested for COVID-19:	
1. 24 hours since fever goes away (without medications) AND	1. Date fever went away: _____ a. +24 hours after: _____
2. 10 days since symptoms began AND	2. Date symptoms began: _____ a. +10 days: _____
3. Other symptoms have improved	3. Date other symptoms improved: _____
The <i>latest</i> date is the day you can return to school	

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If they are tested for COVID-19 and receive a *negative* test result:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. 24 hours since fever goes away (without medications) AND | 1. Date fever went away: _____
a. +24 hours after: _____ |
| 2. Other symptoms have improved | 2. Date other symptoms improved: _____ |

The *latest* date is the day you can return to school

When a CLOSE CONTACT of someone with Confirmed COVID-19 can return to school:

A **close contact** is anyone who meets any of the following:

- Living in the same household as a person with COVID-19, **OR**
- Caring for a person with COVID-19, **OR**
- Being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes, **OR**
- Being in direct contact with saliva or other body secretions from a person with COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed on, kissing, sharing utensils, etc.).

Close contact definition still applies even when a person with COVID-19 or the close contact wore a cloth face mask or shield.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. 14 days since last exposure to person with confirmed COVID-19 | 1. Date of last exposure: _____
a. +14 days: _____ [date you return to school] |
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More information available from the [Washington State Department of Health](https://www.wa.gov/health).