



COVID-19 School Decision Tree

This guidance is based on CDC and DCPH guidelines, and it is intended to assist staff and school nurses in understanding various situations that may arise in the school. All reports of students, staff, and faculty with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 should be reported to DCPH. Masks may be recommended for individuals who are not sick or have not had a recent exposure based on community transmission levels. Community transmission levels for Denton County can be found at DentonCounty.gov/covidstats.

Positive Test or With COVID-19 ¹
Symptoms



Isolate at Home

- Stay home and isolate for at least 5 days after symptoms appeared. Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.
AND
- Fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication
AND
- Improvement in symptoms.

If the above criteria are met, isolation may end after day 5.

- If asymptomatic, isolate for 5 days from test date.
- For moderate to severe illness or if you have a weakened immune system, isolate through day 10.
- If severely ill, consult your doctor before ending isolation.



Return to School

...when the above can be met
AND

- Continue wearing a well-fitting mask in all indoor settings and monitor for symptoms through day 10 .
- During times in the school day when students or staff members may typically remove masks indoors (such as during lunches, snacks, etc.), plan to adequately distance from others through day 10.

Close Contact/Exposure ²

Regardless of vaccination status:



Mask and Test

- Quarantine is no longer suggested.
- You should isolate if you are sick and suspect that you have COVID-19 but do not yet have test results.
- Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days and monitor for symptoms.
 - Get tested 5 days after exposure.
- If positive, follow criteria under "Positive Test or With COVID-19 Symptoms".
- If negative, continue wearing a well-fitting mask in all indoor settings and monitor for symptoms through day 10.
- If symptoms develop following negative test, isolate from others and test again for COVID-19.
 - During times in the school day when students or staff members may typically remove masks indoors, (such as during lunches, snacks, etc.) plan to adequately distance from others through day 10.

1. If an individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain a negative molecular (PCR) or antigen test conducted by a healthcare provider.

2. Close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period;

3. Either (a) or (b) in footnote 2 above defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the lab-confirmed case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 5 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 5 days following the confirming lab test.