What to do if a Person is Symptomatic at School

If a person has one or more of these symptoms:

- Fever (≥100.4°F) or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Cough (new, changed, or worsening)
- Congestion or a runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Sore throat

They should isolate at home AND get tested for COVID-19

If they do not receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider OR do not get tested:

- They test POSITIVE for COVID-19
- They test NEGATIVE for COVID-19 OR receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider plus a negative test

Did the symptom resolve within 24 hours OR are they consistent with a diagnosed chronic illness?

- NO
- YES

Are they a known close contact?*

- NO
- YES

Was only ONE symptom present?

- NO
- YES

Return to school

- NO
- YES

They can return to school if:

1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication) AND
2. Symptoms have significantly improved AND
3. They continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days

*Close contact: Someone who was within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person for a total of 15 minutes or more within 24 hours during the case’s contagious period. In a K–12 indoor/outdoor classroom, the close contact definition excludes students who were at least three feet away from an infectious student when both students were consistently and correctly wearing masks. Please see the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Guide for K–12 Schools for additional information. The definition of a close contact may vary in some situations. The local health department makes the ultimate determination of a close contact during its investigation, but may delegate this decision if appropriate.