

COVID-19 Symptoms:

Deciding to stay home and Timeline to return to school/work

For people who received a laboratory test for COVID-19

Positive test result:

- Stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication **AND** improvement of other symptoms.
- Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.
- For patients with severe illness, duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset may be warranted.
- For persons who never develop symptoms, isolation and other precautions can be discontinued 10 days after the date of their first positive laboratory test.

Negative test result but symptoms with no other diagnosis:

- Stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** until no fever for at 24 hours without medication **AND** improvement of other symptoms.
- Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.

For people with a COVID-19 diagnosis without a lab test OR people with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 without a medical evaluation (e.g., monitoring symptoms at home)

- Stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication **AND** improvement of other symptoms.
- Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.

For people with other diagnoses (e.g., norovirus, strep throat) that explain the symptoms, or when a health care provider says symptoms are connected to a pre-existing condition

- Stay home until symptoms have improved.
- Follow specific return guidance from the health care provider.
- If symptoms related to a pre-existing condition change or worsen, talk to a health care provider to determine next steps.
- Siblings and household members do not need to stay home.

For people (e.g., children, care providers, or staff) who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, send home or deny entry and reference the exclusion criteria in this document to determine when they may return.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: new onset cough or shortness of breath by themselves OR at least 2 of the following: fever (100.4°F or higher), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of sense of smell or taste, and gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea.

If a person has a new symptom (for example, new loss of smell only) with no other diagnosis to explain it, they should stay home and talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19, even if it is the only symptom they are experiencing.