



## COVID-19 Exclusion Guidance for Schools and Childcare

Send home or exclude children or staff with **any** symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19. For symptoms consistent with COVID-19, reference the exclusion criteria below to determine when individuals may return.

**Students and staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should be excluded from childcare or school if they have:**

- Any one (1) of the following
  - Fever – or-
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing -or -
  - Loss of taste or smell -or –
  - New or worsening cough
- Any two (2) of the following:
 

○ Sore throat	○ Headache
○ Muscle aches	○ Congestion or runny nose
○ Chills	○ Diarrhea
○ Fatigue	○ Nausea or vomiting

Has the person been clinically evaluated?	Has the person been clinically evaluated?	Has the person been clinically evaluated?	For a person not clinically evaluated who is monitoring symptoms at home	For a person not clinically evaluated who is monitoring symptoms at home
Received laboratory test for COVID-19	COVID-19 diagnosis without lab test	Alternate diagnosis or laboratory confirmed condition (e.g. norovirus, pertussis)	If experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (see list above)	Other symptoms not consistent with COVID-19 (e.g. diarrhea, vomiting)
<p><b>If Positive:</b> DHEC will provide instructions to the person and household contacts about when it is safe to return to work/school.</p> <p><b>If Negative:</b> Stay home until fever has resolved, other symptoms have improved, AND either two negative tests are received in a row at least 24 hours apart or 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.</p>	<p>Stay home until you have had no fever for at least 3 days AND improvement of other symptoms AND at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.</p> <p>Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.</p>	<p>Follow healthcare provider directions, treatment, and return guidance.</p> <p>See the <a href="#">School and Childcare Exclusion List</a></p>	<p>Stay home until you have had no fever for at least 3 days AND improvement of other symptoms AND at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.</p> <p>Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.</p>	<p>See the <a href="#">School and Childcare Exclusion List</a></p>

Note: Any child with any one of these symptoms should consider not attending school regardless of meeting exclusion criteria. If these symptoms are explainable by an underlying condition (such as shortness of breath or cough for an individual with asthma) exclusion may not be necessary.