

### COVID-19 Release From Isolation and Return-to-School Guidance

When can a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case return to school?  
Under guidance of a medical professional, the following strategies may be used:

#### Symptom-Based Strategy

Patients With Symptoms

At least **10 days+** have passed since onset of first symptoms

Improvement in symptoms

At least **24 hours** since last fever\*

#### Time-Based Strategy

Patients With No Symptoms

At least **10 days** have passed from collection date of first positive test

No Symptoms have developed since the first positive test

#### Test-Based Strategy

Critically ill or severely immunocompromised patients

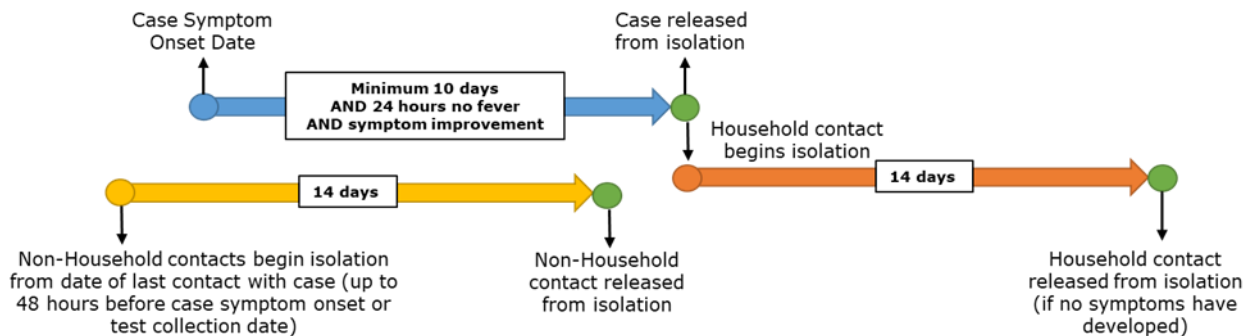
Two negative PCR test results collected **≥ 24 hours** apart

Improvement in symptoms

Resolution of fever\*

†For patients with severe illness, duration of isolation for up to **20 days** may be warranted  
\*Without the Use of Fever-Reducing Medications

#### When can an individual exposed to a positive case return to school?



#### Useful References:

[CDC Guidance for Schools & Childcare Programs](#)  
[TEA Public Health Guidance](#)

[CDC Guidance for Disposition of Home Isolation Patients](#)  
[CDC Toolkits for K-12 Schools](#)

#### Strategy Differences

##### Test-Based Strategy

Only recommended for:

- Severely Immunocompromised persons

##### Symptom and/or Time-Based Strategy

Consider for:

- Persons not meeting criteria for test-based strategy
- Suspected COVID-19 cases that are never tested
- Note: For persons with severe illness, duration of isolation for up to **20 days** may be warranted

#### Release from Isolation of Case Contacts

##### Household Contacts

- ✓ Must be Quarantined for **14 days** after positive case is released from isolation

##### Non-Household Contacts

- ✓ Must be Quarantined for **14 days** from the date of last contact with the case (identified as contact with case up to 48 hours before case symptom onset or test collection date).

#### Considerations for Schools

When reporting a known or suspected case, remember to collect the following information:

- Patient Name
- Patient Date of Birth
- Patient Address
- Parent/Guardian Contact Information
- Where patient was tested (hospital, doctor office, etc)
- Date the test was collected
- Date symptoms started, if known
- Last date at school

#### Identification of close contacts & exposures

Close contact is defined as:

- Direct exposure to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on) from a sick case;
- Being within 6 feet of a sick case for  $\geq 15$  minutes