

# Returning from Exclusion: Summary Tool

This summary tool is for school leaders to support individuals returning from exclusion. School leaders should collaborate and communicate with the excluded individuals, their families, local health departments, and health care providers, in determining when an excluded individual can return to school. Note: A negative COVID-19 test is **not** required for an individual to return from exclusion.

For more details on isolation and quarantine given different scenarios (such as living with someone who is positive for COVID-19), school leaders should refer to [When to Quarantine \(also available in Spanish\)](#).

For more details on COVID-19 testing in K-12 environments, refer to [K-12 COVID-19 Testing Considerations \(also available in Spanish\)](#).

Exclusion Category	Scenario	Criteria to return to school
Diagnosis	Person has tested <b>positive</b> with an <b>antigen test</b> but <b>does not have symptoms</b> of COVID-19	If the person takes a repeat PCR/molecular test performed in a laboratory within 24 - 48 hours of their positive antigen test, and that PCR/molecular test is negative: the positive antigen test can be considered a false positive and the person can immediately return to school. OR If the person does not take a repeat PCR/molecular test, or takes one within 24 - 48 hours and it is also positive: The person can return to school when they complete 10 days of isolation. Isolation should begin starting from the date of their first positive test.
Diagnosis	Person has tested <b>positive</b> with a <b>PCR/molecular test</b> but the person does <b>not</b> have symptoms.	Person can return to school when they complete 10 days of isolation. Isolation should begin starting from the date of their first positive test.
Symptoms	Person <b>has symptoms</b> of COVID-19 and has tested <b>positive</b> with an <b>antigen test or PCR/molecular test</b>	Person can return to school when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person completes 10 days of isolation. Isolation should begin starting from their first day of symptoms; AND</li> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.</li> </ul>
Symptoms	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has <b>not</b> been tested for COVID-19 nor has visited a health care provider. Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive.	Person can return to school when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person completes 10 days of isolation. Isolation should begin starting from the first day of symptoms; AND</li> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.</li> </ul>
Symptoms	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has visited a health care provider and received an <b>alternate diagnosis</b> that would explain the symptoms of fever, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough or new loss of taste or smell, and the health care provider has determined COVID-19 testing is not needed.	Person can return to school when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• They have felt well for at least 24 hours.</li> </ul> Note: The health care provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis.
Exposure	Person has been in <b>close contact</b> with someone <b>with a confirmed case</b> of COVID-19.	Person can return to school after completing 14 days of quarantine. The 14 days of quarantine begin after the last known close contact with the COVID-19-positive individual. <b>The person must complete the 14-day quarantine, even if they have a negative test during the quarantine period.</b>
Household Member, Exposure	Person is a <b>household member</b> (e.g. a sibling) of someone <b>with a confirmed case</b> of COVID-19.	Person can return to school after completing 14 days of quarantine. The 14 days of quarantine begin at the end of the 10-day isolation of the person with COVID-19.
Household Member, Symptoms	Person is a <b>household member</b> (e.g. a sibling) of someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 but who has <b>not</b> been tested for COVID-19, nor has visited a health care provider. Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive.	Person can return to school after completing 14 days of quarantine. Because COVID-19 was not ruled out, presumption is that person may remain infectious for up to 10 days after symptom onset. The 14 days of quarantine begin at the end of this 10-day isolation period.
Household Member, Symptoms	Person is a <b>household member</b> (e.g. a sibling) of someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 but has visited a health care provider and received an <b>alternate diagnosis</b> that would explain the symptoms of fever, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough or new loss of taste or smell, and the health care provider has determined COVID-19 testing is not needed.	Person can return to school when household member receives their alternate diagnosis. Note: The health care provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis.