

# Responding to Symptoms in Children

Please be in communication with your school about all absences.



Does your child have any new or worsening "core" symptoms: fever; cough; shortness of breath/difficulty breathing; loss of smell or taste?\*

YES

Your child is **legally required** to self isolate for 10 days from start of symptoms. Use the [AHS Self-Assessment](#) or call 811 to book testing.

Has your child tested positive for a variant of concern of COVID-19?

YES

Your child is **legally required** to self isolate for 10 days from when symptoms started. You will be contacted by AHS with instructions on isolating safely.

NO

Your child **must** isolate for at least 10 days from the start of their symptoms or until they are gone, whichever takes longer, OR until they test negative for COVID-19.

NO

Does your child have any new or worsening "other" symptoms: Chills; sore throat/painful swallowing; runny nose/congestion; feeling unwell/fatigued; nausea/vomiting/diarrhea; unexplained loss of appetite; muscle/joint aches; headache; conjunctivitis (pink eye)?\*

YES

Keep your child home. Use the [AHS Self-Assessment](#) or call 811 to determine if testing is recommended.

Your child can return to school once their symptoms go away as long as it has been at least 24 hours since they started.

YES

Does your child have more than one "other" symptom?

NO

Keep your child home and monitor the symptom for 24 hours.

Is the symptom improving after 24 hours?

YES

If your child's symptom is improving after 24 hours, they can return to school when they feel well enough to go. Testing is not required.

NO

If the symptom does not improve or worsens, or if new symptoms develop, use the [AHS Self-Assessment](#) or call 811 to determine if testing is recommended.

\*"Core" and "other" symptoms apply to all strains of COVID-19, including variants.

If your child was tested because they had any of the "core" (red circle) symptoms, they must isolate for a minimum of 10 days, regardless of whether their symptoms resolve while waiting for test results.

Your child may return to school before 10 days **only** if they have a negative test result, their symptoms are gone, and they are not a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

If your child was tested because they had any of the "other" (yellow circle) symptoms and they are symptom free, they may return to school while waiting for test results.

## Close Contacts

Close contacts are **legally required** to quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure.

Close contacts are recommended to be tested **twice** for COVID-19: once as soon as exposure is confirmed, and again 10 days after the last exposure.

## Household Contacts of a Variant of Concern

Isolation in the same household is not sufficient to prevent spread of variants of concern. Each day spent in the same household as someone who has tested positive for a variant is considered a new exposure.

Household contacts of a variant of concern **must** quarantine during the case's isolation period (10 days) plus an additional 14 days after the case's isolation period ends.