

# Return to School Flowchart

**A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER HAS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19**

Send the individual home immediately. Advise them to seek medical attention, including testing for COVID-19.

**POSITIVE  
TEST RESULT**

**Notify the school nurse.**

See guidance in the Return to School flowchart addressing when “A Student or Staff Member Tests Positive for COVID-19.”

**NOT TESTED**

**Isolate at home.** Avoid others in the household and do not leave home except to seek medical care.

This student can return to school on campus and other activities when **ALL** of the following are true:

- It has been at least 10 days since they first had symptoms **AND**
- They have not had a fever for 1 day (24 hours) without any fever reducing medication **AND**
- Their other symptoms have improved.

**NEGATIVE  
TEST RESULT**

**Has this person had close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?**

**YES**

**Quarantine at home.** Avoid others in the household and do not leave home except to seek medical care.

This person can return to school on campus and other activities per guidance from school nurse.\*

*If this person later has a positive test, use criteria to the left.*

**NO**

This person may be allowed to return to school on campus and other activities 24 hours after they have not had a fever without any fever reducing medication and their other symptoms have resolved.

*\*Individual quarantine periods to be determined by school nurses based on testing and symptoms. A **14-day quarantine is required** for student-athletes participating in sports that cannot strictly adhere to wearing face coverings AND maintaining 6 feet of distance at all times (per CDC guidelines)*

## QUESTIONS?

Contact your child’s school nurse for guidance and further details.



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*This flow chart is based on recommendations from CDC and guidance from NCDHHS last updated August 10, 2021. For more information, see the NCDHHS StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit updated online at [www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov/guidance#schools](http://www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov/guidance#schools).*