

RETURN TO SCHOOL/CHILDCARE/WORK GUIDANCE FOLLOWING A POSITIVE SYMPTOM SCREEN FOR **COVID-19** AND NO EXPOSURE

This guidance can be used by school, childcare and workplace staff and by health care providers when the COVID-19 rate in the community is MODERATE-HIGH (>25 cases/100,000 population over 14 days) and applies to persons with:

- 1 or more new, unexplained symptom consistent with COVID-19, AND
- No known COVID-19 exposure in prior 14 days

<b>Symptoms consistent with COVID-19</b>	
<b>Class A Symptoms</b>	<b>Class B Symptoms</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever (defined as subjective or 100.4°F or higher)</li> <li>• Cough</li> <li>• Loss of sense of taste and/or smell</li> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Muscle or body aches</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Congestion or runny nose</li> <li>• Nausea or vomiting</li> <li>• Diarrhea (defined as 2 or more loose stool in 24 hours)</li> </ul>

Does the person have:

- Any class A symptom of any duration, or
- 2 or more class B symptoms of any duration, or
- 1 or more class B symptom lasting more than 24 hours

YES NO

**HCP evaluation and COVID test are recommended.**  
Does a health care provider make an alternative diagnosis<sup>2</sup> that explains all symptoms without performing a COVID-19 test<sup>3</sup>?

**HCP evaluation and COVID test should be considered.**  
Does a health care provider make an alternative diagnosis<sup>2</sup> that explains all symptoms without performing a COVID-19 test<sup>3</sup>?

YES NO

COVID-19 test is...

Negative<sup>3</sup>

Positive or not done

Positive

Negative<sup>3</sup> or not done

**Isolate until at least:**

- 10 days since symptom onset AND
- 24 hours after fever resolves without use of fever-reducing medications AND
- Symptoms have improved

**Isolate until at least:**

- 24 hours after fever resolves without use of fever-reducing medication AND
- Symptoms have improved

OR


- Per condition diagnosed by HCP

Whichever is LONGER

<sup>1</sup>For community COVID-19 rate, see [State of Washington COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard](#)

<sup>2</sup>Examples of alternative diagnosis made by health care provider include childhood rash illness, acute otitis media, or a lab confirmed diagnosis such as strep throat or non-COVID-19 viral pathogen. If testing for other viral pathogens, strongly recommend testing for COVID-19 as well.

<sup>3</sup>In symptomatic persons and when community transmission is moderate-high, a negative rapid test should be confirmed with a PCR test performed in a clinical laboratory. See [Interim Guidance for Rapid Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2 and Considerations for Interpreting Antigen Test Results in Nursing Homes](#).



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