**Return to Learn: guidance following a positive COVID-19 Symptom Screen (R1)**

This decision tool is NOT intended for cases or close contacts of COVID-19.

A confirmed COVID-19 case or close contact should follow public health isolation or quarantine instructions for return to school/work.

No test result can end an individual's isolation or quarantine period early.

*All students/staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested as soon as possible.

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**Critical Symptom**
- Loss of taste or smell

**Major Symptoms**
- Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4°F or greater
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

**Minor Symptoms**
- Sore throat
- Runny nose or congestion
- Muscle or body aches

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**STOP**

Follow regular Return to School illness policies if all major symptoms have stayed resolved for 24 hours

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Yes

Is the person under 3 years old? If not, can person wear a mask safely?

- Yes
  - Follow Home Isolation for 10 days following symptom onset and 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds
  - Test result
    - Positive
      - Follow Home Isolation for 10 days following symptom onset and 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds
    - Negative
      - Follow regular Return to School illness policies if all major symptoms have stayed resolved for 24 hours
  - No/Results pending

- No

Does individual have new loss of taste or smell of any duration?

- No
  - Have symptoms resolved within 24 hours of symptom onset?
    - Yes
      - Did the person have Minor symptoms only AND symptoms resolved in 48 hours AND can person wear a mask safely?
        - Yes
          - Follow regular Return to School illness policies if all major symptoms have stayed resolved for 24 hours
        - No
          - Follow regular Return to School illness policies if all major symptoms have stayed resolved for 24 hours
    - No
      - Is there an alternate diagnosis that explains all symptoms?‡
        - Yes
          - No/Results pending
        - No
          - Is the person under 3 years old? If not, can person wear a mask safely?
            - Yes
              - Follow regular Return to School illness policies if all major symptoms have stayed resolved for 24 hours
            - No
              - Follow regular Return to School illness policies if all major symptoms have stayed resolved for 24 hours

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‡ In the setting of medium or high transmission, the following are examples of alternate diagnoses that should be considered if the COVID-19 PCR is negative.
- Positive laboratory test: influenza, streptococcal pharyngitis ("strep throat"), bacterial infection
- Clinical diagnoses: worsening of known illness (such as asthma or seasonal allergies) with clear link to underlying disease

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For use in communities in Level Green or those the Local Public Health Agency determines is low.

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To request assistance or provide feedback: https://tinyurl.com/COP12Feedback
**Critical Symptom**
- Loss of taste or smell

**Major Symptoms**
- Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4°F or greater
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

**Minor Symptoms**
- Sore throat
- Runny nose or congestion
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting
- Diarrhea

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This decision tool is NOT intended for cases or close contacts of COVID-19.

A confirmed COVID-19 case or close contact should follow public health isolation or quarantine instructions for return to school/work. No test result can end an individual’s isolation or quarantine period early.

*All students/staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested as soon as possible.*

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For use in communities in Levels Blue, Yellow, Orange and Red

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Follow Home Isolation for 10 days following symptom onset and 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds
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*All students/staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested as soon as possible.

For use in communities in Level Purple or for people who have traveled to or lived in an area with large numbers of COVID-19 cases within the past 14 days:

*Start

1. Does individual have new loss of taste or smell of any duration?
   - No
   - Yes

2. Have symptoms resolved within 24 hours of symptom onset?
   - Yes
   - No

3. Did the person have Minor symptoms only AND symptoms resolved in 48 hours AND can person wear a mask safely?
   - Yes
   - No

4. Was testing done?
   - Yes/pending
   - No

5. Test result
   - Negative
   - Positive

6. Follow Home Isolation for 10 days following symptom onset and 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds

Follow regular Return to School illness policies if all major symptoms have stayed resolved for 24 hours.

Critical Symptom
- Loss of taste or smell

Major Symptoms
- Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4°F or greater
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Minor Symptoms
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting
- Diarrhea

**If all of the following conditions are met, confirmation of a negative antigen test with PCR is not needed (in all other circumstances, a negative must be confirmed with PCR.)

- No known exposure to a person with known or suspected COVID-19 (or part of an outbreak)
- No travel to an area with high incidence of COVID-19
- Lives/work/attends school in a community with 2-week incidence <50 cases per 100,000 (this information can be located at https://covid19.colorado.gov/data under Incidence and Epi Curves
- Experiencing minor symptoms only (sore throat, runny nose or congestion, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)

‡ In the setting of medium or high transmission, the following are examples of alternate diagnoses that should be considered if the COVID-19 PCR is negative.

- Positive laboratory test: influenza, streptococcal pharyngitis ("strep throat"), bacterial infection
- Clinical diagnoses: worsening of known illness (such as asthma or seasonal allergies) with clear link to underlying disease

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