

At-Home COVID-19 Testing for Children in School or Childcare

When to test a child for COVID-19.

Test if the child has new symptoms, even if they are up to date on COVID-19 vaccine. If the test is negative and symptoms persist, re-test in 24 – 48 hours. Keep the child home when they are sick.

Test if the child has been around someone with COVID-19.

- If the child was a close contact with someone with COVID-19 at school, test immediately. If the test is negative, repeat the test in 24 – 48 hours for 5 days. Watch for symptoms for 10 days.
- If the child was exposed to a household member with COVID-19, test immediately. If negative, continue testing every 24 – 48 hours until 5 days after the last positive household member’s isolation has ended. Watch for symptoms. Your child should wear a mask around others.

Test before a child returns to school after travel or school break.

If the child tests positive:

- Start isolation immediately.
- Notify close contacts from at least 2 days before test or symptom onset.

Parents and guardians: if your child tests positive for COVID-19, report the case to their school or child care center immediately. This helps stop the virus spreading, protects children and staff, and keeps facilities open.

- Notify your healthcare provider and call the Washington State COVID Hotline at (800) 525-0127.
- Care for your child at home so long as their symptoms are mild to moderate.

Remember: Even a faint line means a positive test result.

Get a PCR test if your medical provider recommends one.

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Learn more at tpchd.org/gettested

