COVID-19 Return to Work/School Flow Chart

Public Health
Seattle & King County

KEY:

Is a close contact[3]. See Page 2.

Tested positive for COVID-19

Has symptom(s). See Page 2.

SCREEN STAFF OR STUDENT FOR COVID-19

- **NO** symptoms
- **NO** COVID-19 diagnosis
- **NO** close contact of someone with COVID-19

CAN go to school

- **Had ONLY ONE short-term symptom[1]**: fatigue; headache; muscle pain/body ache; sore throat; congestion/runny nose; nausea or vomiting; or diarrhea.
- Symptom lasted **less than 24 hours.**
- **NO** close contact of someone with COVID-19

CAN go to school (if symptom has resolved)

- **NO** symptoms
- **Tested NEGATIVE**, awaiting test results or HAS NOT BEEN tested
- **Close contact** of someone with COVID-19

**See guidance for fully vaccinated individuals below*

CANNOT go to school (can learn remotely)

Can return to building **after quarantining for 14 days[3]** from last date of Close Contact **IF** no symptoms develop during 14-day period. If symptoms develop, get tested or retested.

*Fully vaccinated people (2 weeks after last vaccination dose) **do not need to quarantine** after COVID-19 exposure. Watch for symptoms for 14 days. If symptoms develop, follow flowchart.

- **NO** symptoms
- **Tested POSITIVE** for COVID-19

CANNOT go to school (can learn remotely)

Can return to building **after isolating for 10 days** since the date of positive PCR test collection.

- **1 or more symptoms** for any duration
- **Tested NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 or given alternative diagnosis
- **NO close contact** of someone with COVID-19

**See guidance for fully vaccinated individuals below*

CANNOT go to school (can learn remotely)

Can return to building **after 24 hours** have passed since fever resolved (without medication) **AND** symptoms have improved. **OR** if alternative diagnosis by health care provider, follow provider directions and isolate per condition diagnosed (whichever isolation is longer).

*Fully vaccinated people (2 weeks after last vaccination dose) should also follow the symptom flow chart.

- **1 or more symptoms** for any duration
- **Tested POSITIVE**, awaiting test results or **HAS NOT BEEN TESTED**
- **NO close contact** of someone with COVID-19

**See guidance for fully vaccinated individuals below*

CANNOT go to school (can learn remotely)

Can return to building **10 days after symptoms** started **AND** at least 24 hours have passed since fever resolved (without medication) **AND** symptoms have improved. If one short-term symptom[1] and no positive COVID-19 test, see page 2 for return schedule.

*Fully vaccinated people (2 weeks after last vaccination dose) should also follow the symptom flow chart.

- **1 or more symptoms** for any duration
- **Tested NEGATIVE**, awaiting test results or HAS NOT BEEN tested
- **Close contact** of someone with COVID-19

**See guidance for fully vaccinated individuals below*

CANNOT go to school (can learn remotely)

Can return to building **after quarantining for 14 days** from last date of close contact.

*Fully vaccinated people (2 weeks after last vaccination dose) should also follow the symptom flow chart.

Updated May 16, 2021. Adapted from document of Health Officers in Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties.

COVID-19 Return to Work/School Flow Chart

Public Health
Seattle & King County

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS[2]

- Fever (100.4˚F / 38˚C or higher)
- Cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

[2]*That are not explained by a preexisting condition, such as asthma.*

[1]A **short-term symptom** is defined as: A person has **only one of the following symptoms** (fatigue; headache; muscle pain or body aches; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; or diarrhea) **AND** the symptom begins and resolves in less than 24 hours **AND** no known COVID-19 exposure (close contact).

A person can return to school the next day if the short-term symptom resolves. A COVID-19 test is not required.

CLOSE CONTACT DEFINITION[3]

"Close Contact" includes anyone in one or more of the following categories:

- Been within 6 feet (2 meters) of a person with COVID-19 for a combined total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period
- Live in the same household as a person with COVID-19
- Cared for a person with COVID-19
- Been in direct contact with saliva or other body secretions from a person with COVID-19 (for example: been coughed on, kissed, shared utensils, etc.)

Public Health will help identify close contacts.

If you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and you have no symptoms, Public Health recommends the following:

1. Stay in quarantine for 14 days after your last contact. **This is the safest option**.
2. If this is not possible, stay in quarantine for 10 days after your last contact, without additional testing.
3. If the first two options are not possible, stay in quarantine for 7 full days beginning after your last contact ***and*** if you receive a negative test result (get tested no sooner than day 5 after your last contact). *This option depends on availability of testing resources and may not be recommended in some settings.*

*Fully vaccinated people (2 weeks after last vaccination dose) with no symptoms **do not need to quarantine** after COVID-19 exposure. Watch for symptoms for 14 days. If symptoms develop, follow flowchart.

Updated May 16, 2021. Adapted from document of Health Officers in Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties.