COVID Pediatric Flowchart
Return to School/Childcare

Vermont Child Health Improvement Program
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Vermont Chapter
INCORPORATED IN VERMONT
American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Close Contact

Follow Vermont Department of Health Guidance on **What to do if you are a close contact**

Symptomatic

Fever (100.4 °F or higher), Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Chills, Fatigue, Muscle or body aches, Headache, Sore throat, New loss of taste or smell, Congestion or runny nose, Nausea or vomiting, Diarrhea

Stay Home or Go Home

Get tested
- Take 2 antigen tests as close to 24 hours apart as possible; or (If child is under 2 years of age, they must have a PCR/LAMP test. Antigen tests are not approved for this age group)
- Sign up for **State of Vermont Run Testing**; or
- Primary care clinician may be able to collect or order PCR or LAMP test

Stay Home While Awaiting Results

Negative

The individual may return to the school/childcare program once symptoms are improved*

Unable to Test

Treat as COVID case, follow Vermont Department of Health isolation guidelines

Positive

Child has tested positive for COVID (PCR, LAMP, Antigen)

Stay Home or Go Home

Isolate for 5 days
They can leave their home after day 5 if:
- they have two negative antigen tests performed at least 24 hours apart beginning no earlier than day 4* AND
- they have never had symptoms, or their symptoms have improved and they feel better AND
- they have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers AND
- they wear a mask around others through day 10.

They should **notify their close contacts** that they have tested positive. If they took an antigen test at home, please encourage them to **report positive test results** to the Health Department.
*Testing is strongly recommended. If they are unable to get a test and they meet all other requirements they can end isolation after 5 days.

If a child has a disability and is unable to mask
- Reasonable accommodation should be made for students who are unable to wear or have difficulty wearing certain types of masks because of a disability
- Although testing is strongly recommended, a student with a current COVID infection and disability that prevents mask use could still end isolation early and return to school between days 6-10 if the other requirements (symptom improvement/afebrile) are met.

- If a child is between the age of 2-5 and cannot mask consistently they can get out of isolation after day 5 if all other requirements are met
- If a child is under the age of 2 they can leave isolation if they meet all other criteria (besides masking and antigen testing) after Day 5

* schools/childcare may have their own policy related to returning to school after illness. Families and caregivers should be aware of and consult their school/childcare about specific policies