

COVID-19 Screening

[COVID-19 Symptoms and Self-Checker \(CDC\)](#)

No symptoms OR Direct Exposure*

No signs of COVID-19 via temp checks, self-reporting, or signs/symptoms

Direct Exposure*, No Symptoms

Came in close contact or interacted with a confirmed case of COVID-19 – experiencing no symptoms

Direct Exposure*, At Least 1 Symptom

Came in close contact or interacted with a confirmed case of COVID-19 – experiencing at least 1 symptom

*Direct exposure – students or staff who have been exposed to a person with known or suspected COVID-19 without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Cloth face coverings are not considered PPE.

Diagnosis, No Symptoms

Laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 but experiencing no symptoms (asymptomatic)

Diagnosis with Symptoms

Laboratory-confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19

Students/Staff Response

Proceed to School/Work

Implement recommendations outlined in "Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools"

Can Return to School/Work after:

- Impacted students or staff have completed all requirements in the DPH's ["Return to School Guidance"](#)
- If this person is tested for COVID-19 during the 14 day quarantine period, a negative test result would not change or decrease the time a person is monitored, but a positive test would move the person into one of the below categories, based on whether they are still asymptomatic or have developed symptoms.

Can Return to School/Work after:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath);

AND

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Refer to DPH's ["Return to School Guidance"](#)

Can Return to School/Work after:

- At least 10 days have passed since the positive laboratory test and the person remains asymptomatic.

Asymptomatic persons who test positive and later develop symptoms should follow the guidance for symptomatic persons below.

Refer to [DPH's "Return to School Guidance"](#)

Can Return to School after:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

AND

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Refer to [DPH's "Return to School Guidance"](#)

District/School Response

Implement Preventive Practices

Implement recommendations outlined in "Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools"

Implement Enhanced Mitigation Measures

Implement recommendations outlined in "Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools"

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AND/OR

Targeted Closure

Close off affected areas (i.e. classrooms, offices, etc.) and if possible, wait 24 hours before deep cleaning and disinfecting

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Close off affected areas (i.e. classrooms, offices, etc.) and if possible, wait 24 hours before deep cleaning and disinfecting

OR

Short-term Closure

Close for facility-wide deep cleaning

OR

Long-term Closure

Close building(s) for at least 14 days

WITH

Implement Enhanced Mitigation Measures

Implement recommendations outlined in "Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools"



DPH DOES NOT recommend using a test-based strategy for returning to school for children or adults (2 negative tests at least 24 hours apart) after COVID-19 infection.* CDC has reported prolonged PCR positive test results without evidence of infectiousness. Although persons may have PCR-positive tests for up to 6 weeks, it remains unknown whether these PCR-positive results represent the presence of infectious virus. At this time, PCR positive specimens capable of producing disease have not been isolated more than 9 days after onset of illness.

More information about the science behind the symptom-based strategy for discontinuing isolation can be found [here](#).