

For Medical Providers: Assessing for COVID-19 in children with symptoms and NO KNOWN EXPOSURE to COVID-19¹ (Updated 9/22/20)

IF EXPOSED to COVID-19, algorithm does NOT apply, patient will follow CDC guidelines²

Consider COVID-19 with ≥ 1 higher risk symptom or ≥ 2 lower risk

Lower risk ¹	Higher Risk ¹
New Headache	New, uncontrolled cough
Myalgias	Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (not exercise induced asthma)
Runny nose/congestion	New loss of taste or smell
Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea	Fever (100.4 or higher), chills, rigors
Any of above symptoms present beyond typical symptoms (i.e. allergies)	Sore throat

1 lower risk symptom
Not exposed to COVID-19²

≥ 2 lower risk symptoms OR 1 higher risk symptom
Not exposed to COVID-19²

Return to school/child care after 24 hours if symptom improving. If child is not improving after 24 hours, caregiver should contact their primary care provider.

Swab done³
Negative test for COVID-19

Seen by clinician and no swab done³ and alternative diagnosis likely

Swab done³
Positive test for COVID-19

No swab³ AND no alternative diagnosis (i.e. Family declines, unable to obtain test. etc.)

Return to school/child care when afebrile 24 hours without antipyretics, and symptoms improving, and test has resulted negative

Return to school/child care when afebrile 24 hours without antipyretics, and symptoms improving

Return to school/child care after 10 days AND 24 hours afebrile without antipyretics AND symptoms improving AND local health department approval.

To be determined by PCP evaluation. Ideally swab and negative test. If unable to obtain swab, return to school/child care after 10 days, 24 hours afebrile without antipyretics AND symptoms improving. Health dept. NOT notified of these cases.

Additional Information

1. Threshold for testing will depend on level of community transmission. Algorithms are not intended to replace clinical judgement.
2. Exposure defined as within 6 feet for 15 minutes to COVID positive individual. If exposure, patient will follow CDC guidelines. Even if tested, an exposed patient will need 14 day quarantine. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/contact-tracing.html>
3. Swab refers to SARS-CoV-2 PCR test or rapid antigen test.
4. Other Dx to consider: Pertussis, Strep Throat, Common Cold, Flu, Asthma, Allergies, GI illness, Ear infection, etc.

Reference: <https://www.maineap.org/news/2020/school-re-entry-resources> (Updated 9/22/20)