

WHEN CAN MY STUDENT RETURN TO SCHOOL?

Source: New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) COVID-19 Response ToolKit for Public Schools

https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NMPED_COVID19ResponseToolkit_PublicSch0824_PublicVersion.pdf

Scenario 1: My student has tested positive for COVID-19. When can they return to school?

Thank you for notifying us of your student's positive test result. Your student may return to school following a 10 day quarantine period as established by NMDOH and NMPED.

- If your student was symptomatic prior to being tested for COVID19, the quarantine period begins two days prior to the onset of symptoms and continues for 10 full calendar days.
- If your student was asymptomatic prior to being tested for COVID19, the quarantine period begins on the date of testing and continues for 10 full calendar days.

Scenario 2: My unvaccinated student was exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID19. When can they return to school?

Your student may return to school after completing a 10 day quarantine period. You should receive information regarding your student's quarantine period from your student's school nurse or health assistant. If you do not, please contact the health office at your school. NOTE: A negative COVID19 test prior to the completion of the 10 day quarantine period will not end your student's quarantine period.

Scenario 3: My student was sent home from school with a symptom consistent with COVID19. When can they return to school?

Per the NMPED COVID19 Response ToolKit (pg. 10), any student with any symptom consistent with COVID19 must be excluded from school. Your student may return to school based on the following conditions:

- **COVID19 diagnosis by healthcare provider (MD, NP, PA)**
 - Per current guidance, your child must quarantine for **10** days and obtain a healthcare provider note* (signed/dated) clearing your child to return to school
 - Please report positive diagnosis to school nurse and verify earliest return to school date
 - **COVID19 symptoms with no alternative healthcare provider diagnosis**
 - At least **10** days since the onset of symptoms AND
 - At least 24 hours fever-free (without the use of medication) AND all symptoms are improving
 - **Non-COVID19 viral illness** (influenza, common cold, etc.) **and other healthcare provider (MD, NP, PA) diagnosed conditions** (pink eye, strep throat, ear infection, etc.)
 - Healthcare provider note is required (signed/dated) clearing your child to return to school AND
 - Fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication AND
 - Parent/Guardian **must** contact the school nurse at least 24 hours PRIOR to returning to school.
- OR**
- A **negative PCR test** result will discontinue the isolation and the student or staff member may be allowed to return to school provided the symptoms do not interfere with the ability to work or learn at school.
 - **NOTE: If your student is vaccinated, they may return to school once they provide proof of COVID19 vaccination, a negative COVID19 test, their symptoms have improved, and they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.**

Scenario 4: Someone in my household, but not my student, has tested positive for COVID19. When can they return to school?

Your student may return to school after completing a 20 day quarantine period. The first 10 days of quarantine are based upon the infectious period of the household member who tested positive. The second 10 days of quarantine begin on day 11 and extend through day 20. This period of time represents when the student may develop signs and symptoms of COVID19 and could infect others.