

Protocol: Student is symptomatic at home

1. Family should monitor students at home each morning for the most common symptoms of COVID-19 (see list above).
 - a. **IF NO SYMPTOMS:**
 - i. Send student to school.
 - b. **IF ANY SYMPTOM:**
 - i. Do not send the student to school.
 - ii. Call the school's COVID-19 point of contact and inform them student is staying home due to symptoms.
 - iii. Current Massachusetts DPH guidance is that all symptomatic individuals in Massachusetts, even those with mild symptoms, should be tested.¹⁵ An individual who does not wish to be tested may return to school 10 days¹⁶ from start of symptoms, as long as their symptoms have improved and they have been without fever for at least 24 hours prior to their return to school without the use of fever reducing medication.
 - iv. The student should get tested at one of Massachusetts's test sites.¹⁷ Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment.
 - v. Isolate at home until test results are returned.
 - vi. Proceed as follows according to test results:
 1. **IF NEGATIVE:** Students may return to school after they have tested negative for COVID-19, have improvement in symptoms, and have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. If a provider makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may return to school based on the recommendations for that alternative diagnosis (e.g., influenza or strep pharyngitis).
 2. **IF POSITIVE:** Student should remain at home (except to get medical care), monitor their symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist the school in contact tracing efforts, and answer the call from local board of health or Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative. Most people who have relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days **and** until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.¹⁸ **FOLLOW STEPS UNDER:** "Protocol: Student / staff tests positive for COVID-19."

¹⁵ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-testing-guidance/download>

¹⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?>

¹⁸ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/information-sheet-how-to-self-quarantine-and-self-isolate/download>