

What happens if my child gets symptoms of COVID-19 at school?

If your child has any of these symptoms, he or she will be evaluated by the School Nurse:

- **Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

Source: "DESE/DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios," 8/13/2021

If you have consented to the school testing program, a BinaxNOW rapid antigen (nasal swab) test will be administered. For more information on the testing program, please visit:

<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/covid-screening-testing>

If the test is **positive**, regardless of vaccine status, your child will need to go home and isolate for a minimum of 5 days. In addition, symptoms must improve and your child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

If the test is **negative**, but your child has one of the symptoms in bold, or any combination of symptoms, he or she may need to go home.

In this situation, your child may return to school:

- after a **negative PCR test** and improvement in symptoms, including being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

OR

- a **doctor makes an alternate diagnosis** (strep throat, ear infection, etc) and your child has met the criteria to return to school for that illness. Please provide documentation to school nurse.

A free **PCR test** can be obtained at the Somerville Health & Human Services Department, 50 Evergreen Avenue, across from Winter Hill Community School. Special hours have been set aside for students and their families, but you will need to notify your School Nurse if you plan to go:

Tuesdays, from 1-2 pm and Thursdays, from 3-4 pm. For more information, please visit the city website:

<https://www.somervillema.gov/covid19testing>.

As always, please call your school nurse if you have questions.