

What a negative test means

- Your child's test for COVID-19 was negative.
- A negative test means that your child did not have COVID-19 at the time the test sample was taken.
- Testing is most accurate 5 days after a person has been exposed to COVID-19.

Can you test negative and later test positive?

- Yes, it is possible.
- You may test negative if the sample was collected before the virus had a chance to grow and be found in the nose.
- If this is the case, your child could still test positive a day or two after this first test.
- This is why it is best to wait until at least 5 days after your child was exposed to get tested.
- Call your doctor if your child seems to be getting sick or having new symptoms, especially skin changes or changes to the eyes or mouth.

Call 911 or go to the emergency room if your child has any of these symptoms:

- Trouble breathing.
- Pain or pressure in the chest that doesn't go away.
- Other symptoms that seem serious or unusual for your child.

These instructions are general guidelines. Your healthcare provider may give you special instructions. If you have any questions or concerns, call your healthcare provider.

Keep protecting you and your family

- Everyone 2 years old and older should wear a mask indoors and in crowded settings.
- Keep 6 feet of distance between you and other people whenever possible.
- Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer often.
- Get vaccinated if old enough.
- Scan the QR code to learn about vaccine safety and locations.



Returning to school or daycare

If your child was tested because they were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, your child may still need to quarantine even if they are feeling well. See page 2 for quarantine guidelines.

Close contact means your child was within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19:

- for a total of 15 minutes or more throughout the course of the day (24 hours)
- for example: 5 minutes at breakfast, 5 minutes at lunch, and 5 minutes at dinner = 15 minutes

Quarantine means:

- to remain at home and avoid all public activities
- this means do not go school, daycare, church, stores (including grocery stores), or any public events or places

Quarantine instructions after a negative COVID-19 test result

