

Returning to School Following Illness

COVID-19-like illness (symptoms such as a fever-temperature of 100°F or above, or chills, muscle or body aches, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste and/or smell). **ECDOH requires that in order for students or staff to return to school following a COVID-19-like illness, regardless of vaccination status, one of the following criteria must be met:**

1. A negative FDA approved NAAT COVID-19 test result is provided to the school either by a parent/guardian or medical care provider. A NAAT test is a Nucleic acid amplification test, such as a polymerase chain reaction or PCR; **OR**
2. There have been at least 10 days since the onset of COVID-19 symptoms; **OR**
3. A Health Care Provider provides a signed note reporting a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) and COVID-19 is not suspected. Such individuals may return to school according to the usual guidelines for that diagnosis.

ECDOH offers free COVID-19 PCR testing to symptomatic Erie County residents and close contacts of confirmed cases by calling (716) 858-2929. Other local testing sites are listed at www.erie.gov/covidtestsites. COVID-19 diagnostic testing is fully covered by all health insurance plans per federal mandates.

A negative at-home COVID-19 test result will NOT be accepted to return a student to school or school staff to work.

One of the three criteria listed above must be met before your child may return to school.

Documentation must be submitted to the School Nurse PRIOR to your child returning to school.