

FAQs about COVID-19 test results

my child tested positive for COVID-19. how long should they be quarantined?

Most children who have COVID-19 are able to fully recover at home with rest and fluids. You can always call your child's pediatrician or primary care doctor if you have any questions. You should also call your child's doctor if their symptoms get worse. Children who are sick should be separated from other family members as much as possible. We recommend they have their own bedroom and bathroom, if possible. Limit any visitors to the house, and limit contact with pets. Children over the age of 2 should wear a homemade mask or bandana when family members go into their room. The CDC has a tutorial online for making your own facemask, called "how to Make Your Own Face Covering." Children under 2 years old should not wear a facemask.

Children should stay at home and follow these precautions until the risk of them passing the virus to another family member is low. The general guidelines are:

- No fever for at least 72 hours (3 days) without using fever-reducing medicines AND
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, cough or shortness of breath have gotten better) AND
- At least 7 days have passed since your child's symptoms first appeared.

should our other family members or close contacts be tested as well?

Other family members do not need to be tested, unless recommended by your primary care provider. Before you go to get tested, call your doctor. They can help you decide next steps.

what is considered a close contact?

A close contact is someone who lives in the same house as the child, or has had direct contact (caretakers, relatives or friends who regularly visit your home). Direct contact is within six feet.

when should I bring my child to the emergency department?

If your child develops trouble breathing, a temperature over 104 degrees or is not acting like themselves, they should come to the emergency department.

my child's test came back negative. what should I do now?

If a child's test is negative but they're still not feeling well, care for them as you would with any other respiratory illness. You can use a fever reducer such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen to help control their temperature and help them feel better. A humidifier can help with a cough. If you don't have a humidifier, the steam from a hot shower can help. You can also use cough medicines, if your child is 6 years old or older.

