The amount of virus in an infected person’s nose and throat can go up and down over time. Because of this, a test collected on two different days during COVID-19 infection may show different results. If specimens are collected using different techniques or if different labs are used, this can also cause different test results, even when infection is present. False positive molecular and antigen test results are unlikely when there are a lot of COVID-19 infections in the community.

**COVID-19 RETESTING TIPS**

*My child just tested positive at school, but I want to get them retested because they don’t have any symptoms.*

A positive test indicates a COVID-19 infection, and retesting is NOT recommended. Many people with COVID-19 test positive before they have symptoms, and some people with COVID-19 never have any symptoms at all.

*I got my child retested, because I think the first test was a false positive. Their second test was negative, so I want to bring them back to school.*

In general, retesting is NOT recommended.

- If both tests were PCR tests, the child is considered positive and should complete their isolation period.
- If the first test was an antigen test and the second was a PCR test, the child is still considered positive and should complete their isolation period.

**Why would two tests have different results?**

The amount of virus in an infected person’s nose and throat can go up and down over time. Because of this, a test collected on two different days during COVID-19 infection may show different results. If specimens are collected using different techniques or if different labs are used, this can also cause different test results, even when infection is present. False positive molecular and antigen test results are unlikely when there are a lot of COVID-19 infections in the community.