My child has a diagnosis of COVID-19 and/or a positive test for SARS-CoV-2. Does my child have to test negative before returning to school or child care?

- **No, your child does not have to test negative before returning.** They can return when ALL the following are true:
  - At least 10 days have passed since the start of COVID-19 symptoms, or date of positive test if no symptoms
  - The child has had no fever for at least 24 hours, without the help of medicine
  - The child’s symptoms have improved.

Tests can be positive for a long time after the child is no longer infectious and **repeating the test is not recommended**.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- **SARS-CoV-2** is the virus that causes COVID-19.
- **Close Contact** means that the child or student was **within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person for a total of 15 minutes or longer**, EVEN IF both the child or student and the other person were wearing masks. Shorter periods that add up to 15 minutes on the same day also count. Close Contact can also mean that the child or student had a briefer but major exposure to the COVID-19 positive person’s respiratory droplets. For example, the sick person coughed directly on the child or student.
- **COVID-19 Symptoms** include fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle/body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.
- A **Healthcare Provider** is a Doctor, Nurse Practitioner, or Certified Physician Assistant.