



**Boston  
Children's  
Hospital**

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# BCH Return to School COVID-19 Tool

October 2020



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## Tool Overview

### Boston Children's Return to School COVID-19 Tool

Free, simple web-based tool parents & caregivers can use to receive general guidance on whether or not their student should attend school for COVID-related issues

- Based on responses to questions, parents **given recommendation on school attendance and directed to BCH & government resources related to COVID-19**
- Tool developed in accordance with **MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines** for safely returning to school
- **Publicly available on Boston Children's Hospital website** for parents & caregivers to access for free
- Schools may choose to **distribute tool directly to parents & caregivers as additional resource for COVID-related efforts**

[Click Here for Link to Tool](#)

# Core Components

## Current Functionality:

- Simple 2 question tool including:
  - Exposure to infected individual
  - COVID-19 Symptomology
- Logic-based output pages provide guidance for parents
  - Guidance is either to attend or not attend school
  - Output pages contain links to available BCH and community resources

## Limitations:

- Responses are completely anonymous and **cannot be traced back to individual students**
- **Should only be used as educational resource**, not a mandated attestation tool
- Only available in English (potential to add additional languages)

***The recommendations in this screening tool are for educational purposes only. For specific medical advice, diagnoses and treatment, parents and student should talk to their health care providers***

# Survey Page

At Boston Children's the health and safety of our patients and our community are of utmost importance. Please check your child for symptoms every day before going to school, and keep your child home if they are feeling unwell.

## Boston Children's Return to School COVID-19 Tool

**In the last 14 days, has your child had close contact with anyone with confirmed COVID-19?**

*Note: a close contact is defined as being within six feet of the individual for at least 15 minutes while the person was infectious. \**

- No
- Yes

**Does your child have any of the following symptoms? \***

- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Fatigue, in combination with other symptoms
- Fever (100.0° F or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Headache, in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies), in combination with other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- No symptoms

Send

# Output Page: OK to Attend School

## Ok to attend school today due to reported lack of COVID-19 symptoms or exposure

Based on your survey responses, your child has not been in close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19 and is not experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 and can attend school today.

This guidance is based on the feedback provided from your survey responses and MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education COVID-19 guidelines. Contact your school nurse and/or administration, or email [COVID19K12ParentInfo@mass.gov](mailto:COVID19K12ParentInfo@mass.gov) if you have any additional questions.

### **Boston Children's COVID-19 Resources**

- [Return to School Tip Sheet](#)
- [About Coronavirus & COVID-19](#)
  - [Parenting Resources](#)
  - [Community Resources](#)
- [Helping Your Child Wear a Mask](#)

*Source: Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings.*

*MA DESE, July 17, 2020 and Joint Memo Clarifying Key Health and Safety Requirements for Schools, MA DPH and DESE, August 18, 2020*

*The recommendations in this screening tool are for educational purposes only. For specific medical advice, diagnoses and treatment, talk with your health care provider.*

# Output Page: Suggest Not Attending School

## **Suggest not attending school today due to reported COVID-19 symptoms and/or exposure**

Based on your survey responses, your child has either been in close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 and should not attend school today.

If your child has been in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, your child should be tested and self-quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure, regardless of test result. If your child is not tested, they should still remain home in self-quarantine for 14 days from exposure.

If your child has not been in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case but is experiencing symptoms, they should get tested before returning to school. The alternative is to remain at home in self-isolation for 10 days from symptom onset, then return once asymptomatic for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Please also refer to school guidelines for local guidance on whom to notify and when to return.

Boston Children's offers a [locator](#) to find test sites that accommodate children and the [State of Massachusetts](#) has further resources. It is also a good idea to contact your child's primary care physician for further instructions.

This guidance is based on the feedback provided from your survey responses and MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education COVID-19 guidelines. Contact your school nurse and/or administration, or email [COVID19K12ParentInfo@mass.gov](mailto:COVID19K12ParentInfo@mass.gov) if you have any additional questions.

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# Current Opportunity for School-Based Tool Distribution

## Publicize Availability of Tool to Parents & Caregivers

- Inform parents of tool availability via website, newsletter, PTO, etc.
- Make link to tool available directly on school system website for easier access
- Promote availability of tool as resource for parents as they have questions on whether or not student should attend school based on COVID-19 exposure or symptomology

*Note: Exploring other deployment options requires additional discussions between school and BCH*

# Contact Information & Next Steps

- For additional information, questions, or to schedule a call to discuss options for deploying the BCH Return to School COVID-19 Tool within your school, please reach out to:
  - Jake de Medeiros ([jake.demedeiros@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:jake.demedeiros@childrens.harvard.edu))
  - Annie Hill ([annie.hill@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:annie.hill@childrens.harvard.edu))
- [Click Here for Link to Tool](#)