Should my child stay home?
The main symptoms of COVID-19 are cough, fever and shortness of breath. If your child merely has a runny nose, your child may attend school. Many school district policies state that a child should be fever free for 24 hours before they return to school. If your child has cough, fever and shortness of breath and you are concerned about possible COVID-19, call your local health department or health care provider. They will help you decide if you need an appointment. If so, they can help you plan a way to enter a clinic in a way that avoids potentially infecting others.

Should my child be tested?
If your child is showing symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), talk to your health care provider. They will tell you if your child should be tested. Be ready to answer questions about:

• Recent travel to places where COVID-19 is present, and
• If your child has come in contact with someone who has traveled to places where COVID-19 is present.
Is my child safe at school?

Viruses can be spread in schools. This is why it’s important that people with symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) stay home. It is one of the most effective ways to minimize exposure.

Public health is everyone’s responsibility. Teach your child to regularly practice good hygiene measures, such as:

- Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and
- Coughing and sneezing etiquette.

How will I be told if someone at my child’s school is exposed or has COVID-19?

If this happens, your local health department and school district will work together to let you know. They will do this within rules set by the school district and local health department. If you have concerns, check with your child’s school to learn about their communicable disease prevention plan.
What if I decide to keep my child home from school even if it’s not closed?
Work with your child’s teachers and principal at your local school district. They can talk to you about their attendance policies and can explain any procedures they have to support education from home.

Can my child wear a mask at school?
CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. There is no state ban against your child wearing a medical mask at school. However, you will want to check with your local school on their policies.

Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.