

Meridian Elementary: In-Person & Virtual School FAQ

Meridian Elementary In-Person School Questions

If my child is new to the district and I want to enroll my child for In-Person school, how do I do that? (NOT FOR STUDENTS ALREADY ENROLLED)

- ❖ First, use [this](#) link to access the instructions for creating a Skyward account. If you have questions, you can reach our offices by calling 989 687 3200.
- ❖ Then, use [this](#) link to enroll.

Can I enroll my child with Meridian Elementary if we don't live within district boundaries?

- ❖ Under the Schools of Choice legislation, kindergarten through twelfth grade students residing within Midland County Education Service Agency (MCESA) and contiguous intermediate school districts, may apply to Meridian Public Schools for enrollment for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.
- ❖ Transportation is the responsibility of the family.
- ❖ Application must be made to the school district no later than the end of the first week of school, Thursday, September 3, 2020.

Will there be a handbook provided by the school that clearly outlines staff, student, and family expectations regarding the new COVID regulations?

- ❖ Yes. This handbook will be digitally available August 17, 2020.

Will families be able to make teacher requests for their child(ren)?

- ❖ No.

Will there be a Back-to-School picnic where families can meet the teacher and drop off student supplies?

- ❖ Unfortunately, we are unable to host our annual "Welcome-Back Picnic" this year due to COVID-related restrictions. In order to support students as they navigate the hallways to find their classrooms, we will have plenty of adults ready to assist your child in the first few days of school. A building map that includes teacher names will also be provided in case that can be of assistance. It sure won't be the same, but we look forward to meeting families in the parent pick-up lines and through digital or phone communication as we begin this year.

What are the school's expectations regarding masks and hand cleaning and sanitizing?

- ❖ Staff will wear facial coverings at all times except meals, unless they furnish a doctor's note indicating they are not able to medically tolerate a fabric mask. However, they will be required to wear a clear face shield.

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- ❖ All students, except those with doctor's notes indicating they can't wear a fabric mask, will be required to wear masks if they are outside their classrooms. If the child has a doctor's note indicating they're unable to medically tolerate a fabric mask, students will still be required to wear a clear face shield. For example, masks will be required at all times in the hallways and during the entire process of exiting the building onto buses or into parent vehicles.
- ❖ Face shields, for staff and students, are not permitted as an alternative to the fabric mask, unless the individual provides a doctor's note.
- ❖ If students are mixing with other students from a different classroom (special education rooms, Thinking Center, specials, etc.), students will be required to wear a mask.
- ❖ Students will use their classroom's assigned section of the playgrounds. Masks will not be required outside for recess or specials as long as there is no mixing of cohorts.
- ❖ Masks are required to be washed daily, or if using a disposable it must be disposed of each day. Mask washing will be the responsibility of the family.
- ❖ Meridian Elementary School will provide at least three washable face coverings for every staff member and student, in addition to maintaining a back-up supply of disposable masks. Students and staff can also provide their own mask, as long as they are washed daily and contain appropriate imaging and/or messaging.
- ❖ Students will be explicitly taught how to properly cough and sneeze into their elbow, to use and throw away tissues, and wash hands appropriately.
- ❖ Students and staff will wash their hands with soap and water every 2 - 3 hours.
- ❖ Sharing of students' personal items and supplies will be extremely limited, and every effort will be made to keep them separated, labeled and contained. If there is sharing of classroom materials, there will be disinfecting between use.
- ❖ There are no plans for plexi-glass dividers between students and/or teachers.
- ❖ In the classrooms, the ventilation systems are self-contained and exchange indoor air with outdoor air at least once per hour.

What are the school's expectations regarding maintaining distance between students?

- ❖ Spacing between students will be maximized whenever practical, however, 6 ft. of separation will not always be possible.
- ❖ Students will be sent directly to their classrooms when school entrances are opened (7:40a.m.).
- ❖ Students will have limited access to their lockers to reduce hallway congestion.
- ❖ Hallways will require 2-way traffic, with separation from opposing sides by a visible line down the middle.
- ❖ At the end of the school day, the elementary students will dismiss out of 4 separate door locations in order to reduce hallway congestion.
- ❖ Family members of staff or other guests will not be permitted into the building except under extenuating circumstances, as determined by the administration.
- ❖ Parents/families/guests will not be permitted to "drop-in" unannounced to the building. Such guests are permitted if they call ahead and secure an appointment.

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Such guests will be screened for symptoms, wear a facial covering, and wash/sanitize hands before entering. Strict records will be kept, for contact tracing purposes, of guests entering and exiting the building.

- ❖ Students will eat their breakfast and lunch in their own classrooms.

What are the school's expectations for screening students and monitoring symptoms?

- ❖ Families are encouraged to monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19. The presence of any of the following symptoms should prompt the family to keep the student home from school and to follow up with a primary care provider:

SECTION 1 - Symptoms

- ❖ Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- ❖ Sore throat
- ❖ New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- ❖ Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- ❖ New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

SECTION 2 - Close Contact/Potential Exposure

In the past 14 days has your child:

- ❖ Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19: OR
- ❖ Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19

If the answer is YES to any of the questions in Section One, but NO to all the questions in Section Two, keep your child(ren) home from school until the following are fulfilled:

- ❖ -for fever: at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications;
- ❖ -sore throat/ cough: improvement (if strep throat: do not return until at least 2 doses of antibiotic have been taken);
- ❖ -diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain: no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours;
- ❖ -severe headache: improvement in headache.

If the answer is YES to any of the questions in Section One AND YES to any of the questions in Section Two, call your healthcare provider right away to get evaluated and tested for COVID-19. If you don't have one or cannot be seen, go to www.mi.gov/coronavirustest or call 2-1-1 to find a location to have your child(ren) tested for COVID-19.

- ❖ The decision to close classrooms or buildings will be a joint decision between the district and county health department officials. In all feasible situations, remote learning would follow decisions to close a classroom or building during a quarantine.

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What are the school's expectations for cleaning?

- ❖ Frequently touched surfaces including student desks, light switches, doors, benches, and bathrooms will undergo cleaning at least every four hours with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution. If the situation calls for changing seats/desks, cleaning will take place in between (i.e., changes between art classes)
- ❖ Playground structures will undergo their normal, routine cleaning.

What are the school's expectations for dismissal and transportation home?

- ❖ All students exiting the building at the end of the day will be wearing their mask. Therefore, all students taking the bus home will be ready for the transportation requirement that students wear masks.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer will be placed at the entrance of each bus.
- ❖ All transportation staff will be required to wear a mask at all times.
- ❖ Buses will be cleaned and disinfected prior to each run.
- ❖ Windows will be opened when the weather permits.
- ❖ Students will be assigned seats on the bus, with family members seated together.

If our students are doing in-person schooling at Meridian Elementary, and our region is required to go back to Phase 3 (i.e., distance learning is required), what will learning look like?

- ❖ The learning will depend on whether there is also a "Stay-at-Home" executive order, such as the one we experienced this past spring. If there is NO "Stay-at-Home" executive order, Meridian Elementary students will be at home but provided a nearly-full academic load from our teachers. Once again, students will utilize a device (i.e., Chromebook, iPad) to access this learning remotely. We will use a Learning Management System called Echo in order to facilitate this learning. Echo is what our 5th-12th grade students already use.

You are leaving Meridian Elementary in-person schooling

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You have now entered MERPS Virtual Learning Academy

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MERPS Virtual Learning Academy Questions

What is the link to register my child for the MERPS Virtual Learning Academy?

- ❖ <https://tinyurl.com/merpsvirtualschool>

Is there a deadline to register?

- ❖ Yes. MERPS requests families enroll by Friday, August 17th for planning purposes. Enrollment can occur after this date if seats are available. Please contact 989.488.4662 if you need to enroll AFTER August 14th.

When does my decision to enroll become final?

Enrollment drop/add dates are available below. After these deadlines, a change can NOT occur until after the semester ends.

ENROLLMENT TIMELINES for MERPS Virtual Learning Academy 2020-2021

❖ SEMESTER 1:

| Class Start | Class End | Enrollment Drop/Add End Date |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| August 31, 2020 | January 15, 2021 | September 18, 2020 |

❖ SEMESTER 2:

| Class Start | Class End | Enrollment Drop/Add End Date |
|------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| January 18, 2021 | June 2, 2021 | February 5, 2021 |

Do you have additional questions?

- ❖ Email questions to merpsvirtual@merps.org OR call 989.488.4662

If we enroll in the MERPS Virtual Learning Academy, when can we transition back to on campus, face-to-face learning?

- ❖ A semester-long commitment is required to enroll. We will allow for an initial **2 week opt-out** period for those who are enrolled in the Virtual Academy.

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Will grades be issued?

- ❖ Yes. Grades will be issued just as they are in the 5-day, face-to-face, on campus school model.
- ❖ Grading scales align with Meridian Public Schools grading system. You can access these by visiting the corresponding grade:
 - [Elementary \(K-4\)](#)
 - [Junior High School](#) (5-8th grade)
 - [Early College High School](#) (9-12th grade)

If we begin the year face-to-face, but would like to move to the MERPS Virtual Learning Academy, when can I do so?

- ❖ Enrollment will follow the timelines in the above chart. Appeals can be made to the corresponding building principal for consideration outside of these timelines. These decisions will occur on an individual, case by case basis.

Do I have to enroll every semester?

- ❖ No, enrollment will continue through the 20-21 school year, unless the family/student requests to be dropped from the program and enrolled in face-to-face learning.

Are supplies provided?

- ❖ Yes! Students are provided with the required personal device (chromebook, laptop, etc) and any needed tools essential for learning. Educere suggests using chromebooks for the best interactive experience, but Ipads can be used. We do charge an insurance fee of \$50.00 for K-8th grade students and \$25.00 after the first child. The insurance fee is refundable at the end of the school year upon the return of an undamaged device.

What about internet access?

- ❖ Access to reliable and consistent internet is required for the MERPS Virtual Learning Academy.
- ❖ Hotspot scholarships are available for families in need. This information is collected during student registration in Skyward. We understand that circumstances change, if your family needs assistance, please contact the building office.

Will my child still have access to school provided meals?

- ❖ Families who qualify for free and reduced lunch will be able to continue receiving breakfast and lunch from Meridian Public Schools. Similar to the spring/summer meal distribution centers, meal pick up will occur at a set time every week for enrolled families. More information will be coming soon!

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I've enrolled, now what?

ENROLLMENT PROCESS:

1. Review MERPS Virtual Learning Academy Handbook [Here](#)
2. If interested in enrollment as a Virtual Learning Academy student, please complete MERPS Virtual Learning Application [Here](#).
3. MERPS Staff Advisor will alert family once application has been processed and to schedule orientation, construct student course schedule, and to arrange for technology pick up:
 - a. Schedule Virtual Learning Academy orientation
4. Completion of the Meridian Public Schools registration paperwork.
5. Get ready for a great year! Classes begin on Monday, August 31.

Are MERPS Virtual Learning students still eligible for athletics and activities?

YES! When you select virtual programming through Meridian Public Schools, your child is enrolled as a Meridian Public Schools student and is eligible to participate in all after-school programming available to on-campus MERPS students.

Will the MERPS Virtual Learning Academy content align with “in-person schooling” content at Meridian Elementary School?

Virtual courses will align with the state standards and will be similar to Meridian Elementary’s “in-person schooling” content, however, may not directly match the pace or sequence of content.

Will my child be able to independently engage in a typical day of virtual learning?

Absolutely not. As an elementary student, success with Meridian Virtual Academy will depend upon daily, ongoing, family-child guidance.

On average, how many hours a day would my child be expected to “do school” in the virtual school option?

Meridian Virtual Academy in partnership with Educere acknowledges that virtual schooling brings some flexibility. Meridian Public Schools suggests keeping with a structured schedule to meet the demands of virtual schooling. Our suggested daily schedule is below:

| Activity | Suggested Time |
|--|----------------|
| Morning Meeting (Discuss Calendar, Weather, Lessons for the day, Subject Review goals) | 15-20 minutes |
| Language Arts | 60-75 minutes |

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|--|---------------|
| Snack/Brain Break (play a game, exercise, move around) | 20 minutes |
| Mathematics | 45-60 minutes |
| Lunch/Free Play | 40 minutes |
| Science | 30-45 minutes |
| Brain Break | 10 minutes |
| Social Studies | 30-40 minutes |
| Brain Break | 10 minutes |
| Electives (PE,Health) | 30 minutes |
| Afternoon Meeting (Discuss what was learned today across the subjects, a favorite thing a student learned, what goals were met, set goals for next day.) | 15-20 minutes |

What would a typical class (i.e., mathematics) look like?

- ❖ Students would log in to Educere-Founders Education, follow a pre-planned sequence of lessons that are a combination of pre recorded videos, voice recordings, text readings, and written responses. Each lesson must be viewed in order to go onto the next. When needed, “Instant Teachers” are available through Educere to help with specific content. Students will also take tests and quizzes based on the sequence of each lesson.

How often can students and families access the virtual “Instant Teacher”?

- ❖ Meridian Elementary students enrolled in the Educere option will have access to an “Instant Teacher” who is available from 7:30 am - 7:30 pm Monday through Friday. These meetings will be based on student and family requests.

In addition to the virtual “Instant Teacher,” is my child assigned to a regular teacher?

- ❖ The State of Michigan requires students to have a minimum of a weekly contact between teacher and students. The virtual learning provider, Educere, will assign a Personal Learning Coach who will support the student with initial orientation and set up. The Personal Learning Coach will also provide bi-weekly phone consultation and weekly email progress updates. The Personal Learning Coach is not a Meridian employee. For further information on the Personal Learning Coach, see [here](#).

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Will students take assessments, receive feedback on assignments, and take tests?

Assessments are an integral part of instruction, as they provide critical information regarding both learning and understanding. Meridian Public Schools utilizes several different assessment tools to determine if instructional goals are being met to address any additional learning needs your child might have. In all three learning options, students will engage in the building specific assessments to provide individualized instruction to students. These tools vary by building, but include both formative and summative assessments:

| Will my student have...? | Meridian Elementary In-Person Schooling | Virtual Learning Academy |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Instruction from a highly-qualified teacher | X | X |
| Participate in Athletics, Extracurricular, and School Activities | X | X |
| Devices (laptop, etc)/Headphones/Supplies | X | X |
| Meals* | X | X *Free & Reduced lunch ONLY |
| “Real time” Instruction from teacher | X | |
| Extra Academic Support from teacher | X | X |
| Speech and Other Ancillary Services | X | X |
| Daily Set Schedule | X | |
| Transportation | X | |
| Accommodations (IEP/504) | X | X |

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RESOURCES

Where will I find more information about COVID-19?

For the latest information, please see Michigan.gov/Coronavirus or CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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Tips for Masks

Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

HOW TO WEAR, REMOVE AND STORE A MASK



Wash your hands before and after wearing a mask



Cover nose and chin fully, making sure there are no gaps



Once secure, don't touch or fidget with your mask by pulling it up and down



Take off the mask using ties or loops; don't touch your face or the front of the mask



Fold the mask in half so outside surfaces are touching



Place folded mask in a paper bag or plastic baggie



Wash or sanitize your hands after removal of mask



Launder cloth masks daily with hot water and detergent

PLEASE NOTE: This document is a work-in-progress. Updates may be made to it that add or remove expectations.

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How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering

Accessible: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-doth-face-coverings.html>

WEAR YOUR FACE COVERING CORRECTLY

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Do not place a mask on a child younger than 2



USE THE FACE COVERING TO HELP PROTECT OTHERS

- Wear a face covering to help protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms
- Keep the covering on your face the entire time you're in public
- Don't put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, clean your hands

FOLLOW EVERYDAY HEALTH HABITS

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available



TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTH FACE COVERING CAREFULLY, WHEN YOU'RE HOME

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in the washing machine
- Wash your hands with soap and water



CS 51488A 05/27/2020

Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, both of which should be saved for health care workers and other medical first responders.

For instructions on making a cloth face covering, see:

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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Spectrum Health

Keeping Michigan Informed

Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

- 1. WET HANDS**
- 2. LATHER**
- 3. SCRUB: 20 SECONDS**
- 4. RINSE**
- 5. DRY HANDS**

Key times to wash your hands:

| BEFORE | AFTER |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• preparing food• eating food• putting on a mask | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• using the toilet• blowing nose• coughing or sneezing• taking off a mask• handling pets• touching garbage |

For more information, visit spectrumhealth.org/covid19

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Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have COVID-19, follow the steps below to help protect other people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care.

- **Stay home.** Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and are able to recover at home without medical care. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- **Take care of yourself.** Get rest and stay hydrated.
- **Get medical care when needed.** Call your doctor before you go to their office for care. But, if you have trouble breathing or other concerning symptoms, call 911 for immediate help.
- **Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.**



Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.

- **As much as possible, stay in a specific room** and away from other people and pets in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people or animals in or outside of the home, wear a cloth face covering.
 - See COVID-19 and Animals if you have questions about pets: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#COVID19animals>



Monitor your symptoms.

- **Common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever and cough.** Trouble breathing is a more serious symptom that means you should get medical attention.
- **Follow care instructions from your healthcare provider and local health department.** Your local health authorities will give instructions on checking your symptoms and reporting information.



If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 get **medical attention immediately.**

Emergency warning signs include*:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or not able to be woken
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 if you have a medical emergency. If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the operator that you have or think you might have, COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before medical help arrives.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor.

- **Call ahead.** Many medical visits for routine care are being postponed or done by phone or telemedicine.
- **If you have a medical appointment that cannot be postponed, call your doctor's office.** This will help the office protect themselves and other patients.



If you are sick, wear a cloth covering over your nose and mouth.

- **You should wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth** if you must be around other people or animals, including pets (even at home).
- You don't need to wear the cloth face covering if you are alone. If you can't put on a cloth face covering (because of trouble breathing for example), cover your coughs and sneezes in some other way. Try to stay at least 6 feet away from other people. This will help protect the people around you.



Note: During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical grade facemasks are reserved for healthcare workers and some first responders. You may need to make a cloth face covering using a scarf or bandana.



CS 314129-4 05/03/2020

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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Cover your coughs and sneezes.

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Throw used tissues** in a lined trash can.
- **Immediately wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Clean your hands often.

- **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Use hand sanitizer** if soap and water are not available. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- **Soap and water are the best option**, especially if your hands are visibly dirty.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Avoid sharing personal household items.

- **Do not share** dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home.
- **Wash these items thoroughly after using them** with soap and water or put them in the dishwasher.



Clean all "high-touch" surfaces everyday.

- **Clean and disinfect** high-touch surfaces in your "sick room" and bathroom. Let someone else clean and disinfect surfaces in common areas, but not your bedroom and bathroom.
- **If a caregiver or other person needs to clean and disinfect** a sick person's bedroom or bathroom, they should do so on an as-needed basis. The caregiver/other person should wear a mask and wait as long as possible after the sick person has used the bathroom.



High-touch surfaces include phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.

- **Clean and disinfect areas that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.**

- **Use household cleaners and disinfectants.** Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then use a household disinfectant.

- Be sure to follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Many products recommend keeping the surface wet for several minutes to ensure germs are killed. Many also recommend precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
- Most EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.

How to discontinue home isolation

- People **with COVID-19 who have stayed home (home isolated)** can stop home isolation under the following conditions:



- **If you will not have a test** to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after these three things have happened:
 - You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)AND
 - other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath has improved)AND
 - at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

- **If you will be tested** to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after these three things have happened:
 - You no longer have a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)AND
 - other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath has improved)AND
 - you received two negative tests in a row, 24 hours apart. Your doctor will follow CDC guidelines.

In all cases, follow the guidance of your healthcare provider and local health department. The decision to stop home isolation should be made in consultation with your healthcare provider and state and local health departments. Local decisions depend on local circumstances.