Child Care & Schools With a Person With COVID-19: Who Can Attend?

Does the child care or school need to close?

- Not necessarily. If the center or school is able to remove everyone from areas that need to be cleaned, the center or school may clean without closing.

- Some children, students and staff with potential exposure may be asked to temporarily not attend while the center or school works with public health to determine who had close contact with the person with the positive test. This might mean quarantining a full classroom or more than one classroom if children or students mixed.

Who will be notified that they were exposed?

People who were within 6 feet of the person who tested positive for 15 minutes or more (close contact). Public Health will work with the center or school to notify these individuals/their families. People who do not receive a phone call or letter from public health did not have close contact.

Should we notify Public Health that someone tested positive?

Child care providers in Dane County should report employees and children with a positive COVID-19 test to Public Health either by completing this survey online or by calling (608) 266-4821 and ask for the Communicable Disease Nurse on-call.

After business hours, leave a message. Messages left after business hours or during the weekend will be returned the next business day. Schools in Dane County should reference the school action plan to report a positive case.

Who cannot come to the child care center or school after someone is diagnosed with COVID-19?

- Children, students and staff who had close contact with the person who tested positive will need to quarantine (see next page). This may be different for different people depending on when they attended or last worked with the person who tested positive.

- A close contact cannot come back early even if they have a negative test during their quarantine period.

When can someone who had a positive test return?

- People with a positive test can return when they have been fever-free for 24 hours, their other symptoms are have improved, and it has been at least 10 days since their symptoms started. This may be shorter than the time a close contact needs to stay home.

- People with a positive test do not need a negative test to return.

Can siblings of someone who tested positive come to the center or school?

No, siblings would have had close contact at home and must stay home until they meet public health criteria for returning (the exact timeline will vary by individual).

Can caregivers of someone who tested positive come to the center or school?

- No, caregivers would have close contact at home and must stay home until they meet public health criteria for returning (the exact timeline will vary by individual).

- If a child or student who tested positive is ready to return before their caregivers have met their public health criteria, the center or school may make arrangements to meet the family outside at arrival and departure so the child or student can attend.

Can caregivers and siblings of a close contact come to the center or school?

Yes, they were not exposed to someone with COVID-19 so they can still come.

What if my doctor tells me that I or my child can return before public health says it's OK?

The center or school should follow public health's guidance regarding who can be at the center or school after being diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. Health care providers may not have all of the information needed to provide accurate guidance.

If someone has a positive COVID-19 test, returns, and is exposed to someone else who has a positive test after they return, do they need to stay home after that exposure?

If their first positive viral test for COVID-19 was 90 days or less before the exposure, they do not need to stay home if they are exposed. If their test was more than 90 days before an exposure, they do have stay home.

If someone who never had a positive test gets exposed again, do they need to stay home again?

Yes, people who have close contact with someone with a positive test need to stay home each time they have an exposure unless they have had a positive test in the past.

Quarantining for People without Symptoms

You can develop COVID-19 anytime during the 14 days after your last close contact with someone who has COVID-19. In order to prevent spreading COVID-19 to others, you must quarantine, which means you must stay home from work, school, and other activities.

When quarantining, you should always:

- Monitor your symptoms for 14 days after your last exposure to COVID-19
- Stay home from school, work, and other activities and get tested as soon as possible if you develop symptoms. If positive, follow isolation guidance for people who test positive; if negative, continue quarantining.

It is safest if you quarantine for 14 days after your last exposure. No test is required to end quarantine.

You do have other options for quarantine. These options are to:

- Quarantine for 10 days after your last exposure. No test is required to end quarantine. Monitor yourself for symptoms until 14 days after your last exposure.

- Quarantine and get tested for COVID-19 6 or 7 days after last exposure. If your test is negative, you could end quarantine after 7 days of quarantine. You must have your negative test result before ending quarantine and the test cannot be before day 6. Monitor yourself for symptoms until 14 days after your last exposure.

publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus
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Public Health
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Healthy people. Healthy places.