

Children in Child Care & COVID-19: What Parents Need to Know



What if my child is exposed to COVID-19 at their child care center?

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 who tested positive. This might mean quarantining a full classroom or more than one classroom if children or students are mixed.

Who will be notified that they were exposed?

People who were identified as close contacts of the person who tested positive. 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 the school or center or public health did not have close contact.

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 have improved, and it has been at least 5 days since their symptoms started. If someone cannot wear a mask, they can return after 10 days.
- People with a positive test do not need a negative test to return.

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

Maybe, depending on if they are experiencing symptoms, vaccination status, and ability to wear a well-fitting mask.

See quarantine guidelines on next page.

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

Caregivers and siblings of a close contact can still come to the center or school. However, if the caregiver or sibling themselves were exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, they may have to stay home.

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.

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If my child 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 lab- or provider- based viral test for COVID-19 (not an antibody or home test) 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 my child has never had a positive test and 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 had a positive test in the past 90 days or they are up-to-date on their vaccinations.

Quarantining for People without Symptoms

You can develop COVID-19 days after your last close contact with someone who has COVID-19. In order to prevent spreading COVID-19 to others, quarantine guidelines vary depending on vaccination status. Anyone who develops symptoms should isolate away from others and be tested as soon as possible.

If your child:	We recommend:
Is up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations, including all booster doses recommended for them & either never had COVID-19 OR had COVID-19 more than 90 days ago	Do not need to quarantine, must wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days from day of last exposure. Get tested on day 5 or later if possible.
Is not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations & either never had COVID-19 OR had COVID-19 more than 90 days ago	Quarantine for 5 days; return on day 6 after exposure. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for an additional 5 full days after last day of quarantine. Get tested on day 5 or later, if possible.
Had a positive COVID-19 lab- or provider-based viral test for COVID-19 (not an antibody or home test) in the last 90 days	Do not need to quarantine; must wear a mask for 10 days following exposure.

Your child cannot wear a mask and has close contact with someone with COVID-19

CDC does not recommend mask use for kids younger than 2 years old, and it may be difficult for very young children or for some children with disabilities to wear a mask safely.

- **If they are unvaccinated and have NOT had COVID-19 in the past 90 days**, they must quarantine for 10 days after exposure and return on day 11. If possible, they should get tested at least 5 days after exposure or as soon as they develop symptoms.
- **If they have NOT had COVID-19 in the past 90 days, but are up to date with their vaccinations**, the safest practice is for them to quarantine for 10 days after exposure and return on day 11. However, due to their increased protection against the virus from vaccination, they can attend as long as they do not have symptoms. We also recommend they get tested at least 5 days after exposure or as soon as they develop symptoms.
- **If they are unvaccinated but HAVE had COVID-19 in the past 90 days** (tested positive for COVID-19 with a lab- or provider- based viral test, not an antibody or home test), the safest practice is for them to quarantine for 10 days after exposure and return on day 11. However, due to their increased protection against the virus from recent illness, they can attend as long as they do not have symptoms. We do not recommend testing for these children due to their recent infection. If they develop symptoms, have them isolate and call their pediatrician.