



# CHILD CARE CENTERS

## Prepare for When Someone is Sick with COVID-19

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### COVID-19 Exposure, Symptoms, and Positive Tests

#### Contact Tracing Process

If a child or staff person enrolled in your child care center receives a positive COVID-19 test, the individual's local health department will be alerted. Public health departments receives notification and contact information for all positive cases within the county. Once a positive case is reported, a case investigator is assigned to the case. They provide information about COVID-19 and isolation and ask the case about who they had contact with while infectious. If the individual identifies that they were at a child care site while infectious, the case investigator would link the positive case to the site and then reach out directly to your site.

A person is considered infectious 2 days prior to symptom onset. If they are asymptomatic, they are considered infectious 2 days prior to a positive test.

**REQUIRED:** When sites are aware of an attendee or staff person who tested positive for COVID-19 that was at the site while likely infectious, the site should report the case to PHMDC. There are two options for reporting a case for child care sites in Dane County: 1. Report the case through this short [survey online](#) with information about your center and the person who tested positive or 2. Report the case calling the Communicable Disease Nurse on-call line at (608) 266-4821. During business hours, ask for the Communicable Disease Nurse on-call. After business hours, leave a message. Any message left after business hours or during the weekend will be returned on the next business day. Do not call PHMDC after-hours emergency number to report cases or ask questions. After reporting the case, your site will be assigned a site investigator. This investigator will follow up with your site to determine what further precautions you may need to take. It may take a few days to hear from the site investigator.

#### What to do if someone has COVID-19 Symptoms or Tests Positive in Dane County

For information on COVID-19 symptoms, exclusion criteria and flow chart, reference the [Guidance for When a Child/Youth or Staff Member Can Return to School or Child Care](#).

#### Steps your child care site in Dane County should take if someone tests positive and was at your child care site while they were likely infectious:

1. If the child or staff member has a positive COVID-19 test, report the case to PHMDC through this [survey online](#) or by calling (608) 266-4821 (see Contact Tracing Process in the section above). You must also report the positive case to your licensor.
  - o If the individual lives outside of Dane County, you should also call the local health department in the county where they live.
2. Do not allow children or staff that test positive or close contacts who need to quarantine to come to the child care site.
  - o The positive case must stay home and avoid others until there has been at least 24 hours without a fever (without fever-reducing medicine), symptoms are resolving, and it has been 5

days since the first day you had symptoms. The positive case must continue to wear a well-fitted mask around others for 5 additional days. People who test positive do not need a negative test before returning. Individuals who cannot wear a mask must isolate at home for the entire 10 days.

- o The child care site should identify close contacts (see definition in next section below) at the child care site and inform the close contacts that they were exposed. Some close contacts will need to quarantine. See below. You should exclude these individuals from the center and when the Public Health case/site investigator contacts your child care site, Public Health will provide a letter to give to families and staff members. The child care site will need to provide the names and other information for close contacts to public health.
- o If the person who tested positive has symptoms, they are considered infectious two days prior to symptom onset. If the person who tested positive is asymptomatic, they are considered infectious two days prior to test date.
  - Siblings or household members of close contacts can still attend the child care site

Close contacts of close contacts do *not* need to quarantine since they were not exposed to someone with COVID-19.

### Close Contact Guidance

Anyone who develops symptoms should be tested as soon as possible.

If you:	Can wear a mask	Cannot wear a mask
<b>Are up to date on your COVID-19 vaccinations, including all booster doses recommended for you &amp; either never had COVID-19 OR had COVID-19 more than 90 days ago</b>	Do not need to quarantine, must wear a mask. Get tested on day 5 or later if possible.	Return 11 days after exposure. Another option is to return 8 days after exposure with a COVID-19 negative test* result 6 -7 days after exposure.
<b>Are not up to date on your COVID-19 vaccinations &amp; either never had COVID-19 OR had COVID-19 more than 90 days ago</b>	Return 6 days after exposure with a mask. Get tested on day 5 or later if possible.	Return 11 days after exposure. Another option is to return 8 days after exposure with a COVID-19 negative test* result 6 -7 days after exposure.
<b>Had COVID-19 in the last 90 days</b>	Do not need to quarantine, must wear a mask.	Do not need to quarantine.

\*COVID-19 test cannot be an at-home test

3. The child care site should remove everyone from the areas that the person who tested positive was in and clean those areas according to [CDC guidelines](#).
4. It is recommended that each child care site has a room or space separate from others where children or employees (if the employee cannot leave right away) who may have COVID-19 wait to be evaluated or for pick-up. Only essential employees and children assigned to the room should enter, everyone should sign in and out so that there is a record of the persons who entered the room, and the room should be disinfected several times throughout the day. Everyone should maintain physical distancing and employees should wear appropriate PPE. Children who are ill should be walked out of the building to their parent or guardian.

## Definition of a Close Contact

If the case investigator determines that a child was at your site while infectious, they will work with you to determine if the child had close contact with others in your site. An individual is considered a close contact if any of the following is true:

- Were within 6 feet of a positive person for more than 15 minutes total in a day
- Had physical contact with the person
- Had direct contact with the respiratory secretions of the people (i.e., from coughing, sneezing, contact with dirty tissue, shared drinking glass, food, or other personal items)

This definition applies even if any or all parties were wearing face coverings or if physical barriers were used. These measures reduce the risk of spread but do not eliminate it. If the investigation identifies others in your site to be an unvaccinated close contact, they should refer to Public Health Madison & Dane County's latest [Quarantine Guidelines](#).