COVID-19 Childcare Decision

Symptom and Isolation Tree

When a provider becomes aware of one case, have childcare administrator fill out the COVID-19 Notification Form (sandiegocounty.gov) & call the Local Child Care Licensing Regional Office at 619-767-2200 to report the case. For other related questions, call the Epidemiology School Line at 619-692-8636 and leave a message.

Does the person (staff or child) have any one of the following symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test?

- Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea

For asymptomatic close contacts, use the quarantine and close contact guidance on page 2.

Has the person been identified as a close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes) with a person who has COVID-19?

- YES

Does the individual have a documented pre-existing chronic illness* that accounts for the symptoms AND has not tested positive for COVID-19?

- NO

Results of COVID-19 Testing?

- Negative or No Test Result

- Any Positive Test Result

See “Appropriate Test Type” on page 3.

- Any Positive or No Test Result

- Negative Molecular Test

Is the person fully vaccinated AND do they have a negative molecular test?

- Remain home until the symptoms are improving, and fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

- Stay at home for 14 days from last day of contact and until symptoms have improved, and fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

- Stay at home for at least 10 days after symptom onset, regardless of vaccination status. Return on or after Day 11 with improving symptoms if fever free and no use of fever reducing medicines in the last 24 hours.

- Stay home until symptoms have improved typically 24 hours without fever and no use of fever-reducing medicine.

- Allow to return to class
**Chronic Illnesses:** Must have a signed note from a licensed MD/DO/NP/PA (who manages the condition) and the note must: confirm the chronic diagnosis, cite any associated labs, indicate the date when diagnosed, include provider’s contact information, and explain how symptoms typically present as part of the chronic condition. The note must be accompanied by signed consent for childcare provider to interact with MD/DO/NP/PA.

### QUARANTINE

- Refrain from quarantine if you are **fully vaccinated** and have no symptoms. CDC recommends a test 3-5 days after the day of last exposure.

- Refrain from quarantine and testing if you have had a positive COVID-19 test in the last 90 days. If you had symptoms during your COVID-19 infection, the 90-day period starts from the date of the first symptoms or the date a positive test sample was collected, whichever is earlier.

- If you **are not fully vaccinated or are recovering from COVID-19**, you must quarantine for 14 days from the day of last exposure. **Shorter and modified quarantine periods are not applicable to childcare or preschool settings.**

- In the workplace employers subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention ETS must ensure that employees are following the current ETS face covering and testing requirements.

**People are considered fully vaccinated:**

2 weeks after their 2nd dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna) OR 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine (J&J)

### Quarantine or isolation: What’s the difference?

- Quarantine keeps someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others.

- Isolation keeps someone who is infected with the virus away from others, even in their home.
Addendum on Close Contacts & Test Types

What counts as close contact?

- Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period
- Providing care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Having direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- Sharing eating or drinking utensils
- Being sneezed on, coughed on, or somehow getting respiratory droplets on you from someone with COVID-19
- Close contacts may be identified and excluded, in conjunction with local health department and healthcare provider guidance, based on symptoms and circumstance, such as in the absence of test results.

Household Contacts

If there is ongoing exposure to a positive case, such as a household contact, and the case and contact continue to share a home, the close contact’s quarantine will begin once the positive case’s isolation period has ended. Typically, this is a period of 24 days (10-day isolation period + 14-day quarantine, with the 10th day being the contact’s last day of exposure).

Appropriate Test Types

Molecular Tests (also known as NAAT tests)
- Lab-based PCR
- Rapid molecular tests (PCR-like)

Antigen Tests (on-site or from a medical facility only)
- If symptomatic, a negative antigen test requires confirmation with a molecular test (PCR, LAMP, NAAT) and individuals should isolate until test results are available.
- If asymptomatic, a positive antigen test requires confirmation with a molecular test (PCR, LAMP, NAAT) and individuals should isolate until test results are available.