

**Early Care and Education Sector Telebriefing Q&A Report - 3.9.22** This report includes those questions answered during the telebriefing via the Q&A function. Answers are accurate as of 03/09/2022. If you have a specific question or need clarification please email us at **COVID-EarlyCare@sdcounty.ca.gov**

Topic	Question	Asker Name	Answer(s)
CCL	Should we assume that a CCL PIN regarding mask policies would align with CDPH's guidance?	JC	Please keep your eyes open for any updated guidance from CDSS.
Childcare Guidance	When will these new guidelines be released?	hcorey	These new guidelines are already effective. CDPH Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs (updated 2/18/22) <a href="https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Child-Care-Guidance.aspx">https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Child-Care-Guidance.aspx</a>
Childcare Workers	This new guidance is meant to help children stay in care, however if an unvaccinated child care teacher is "exposed" they cannot be at work days 1-5. Yet an unvaccinated child may remain in care if they are exposed on days 1-5. How are we to provide care for this child if their teacher cannot be a work because they are unvaccinated and an adult and therefore subject to different rules than our children? I have encouraged vaccination of course, but some still choose not to vaccinate.	Seaside Preschool	Hello, we appreciate the feedback as other providers have expressed similar concerns. CDPH currently did not make an exception for quarantine for the general public or employees, but only for child attendees. It is important to continue to encourage all staff receive vaccination unless contraindicated by a medical provider. It is possible the quarantine guidance may change in the future for employees, but this is current guidance.
Cohorting	Can you speak to cohorting recommendations?	Anita Ip	Please refer to the latest guidance. Best practice is to keep groups as stable as possible to help stop the spread of COVID.
Decision Tree	Was a new decision tree released reflecting after March 11?	DENISE VICK	This has not yet been updated and released.
Decision Tree	Isn't this the new "Decision Tree" for children?	Denise Duppee	Hi Denise, that is a tool available through CDPH. The County's latest Childcare Decision Tree is dated 3/1/22 and is available here <a href="https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/covid19/Community_Sector_Support/Schools/Child_Care_Services/Childcare%20COVID%20Decision%20Tree.pdf">https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/covid19/Community_Sector_Support/Schools/Child_Care_Services/Childcare%20COVID%20Decision%20Tree.pdf</a>
Decision Tree	Yes, Mariah Dumouchel, but the "Tree" part is for childcare workers. The first page that is just text and not in the "tree" format also had the 2 slides I linked above. Isn't that correct?	Denise Duppee	Yes, those 2 slides provided by CDPH would apply to children in childcare just like the top of the SD County "Tree" text portion.
Decision Tree	Will the Decision Tree be updated?	hcorey	Hello, yes there are plans to update the decision tree for changes that will take place on March 12th.
Decision Tree	Is there any indication what areas of the Decision Tree will be updated after March 11th?	JC	The references to masking will be updated to align with new guidance. This will be the biggest change to the tree.

Masking	Where can we find the updated Mask guidance (as of March 2022) in writing? The Updated Guidance for Childcare still sites the June 11, 2021 Health Order? Is there or will there be a PIN so we can have it in writing?	Cecilia Krongold	Hi Cecilia, Here is current CDPH Face Covering Guidance, which is linked to in the Childcare Provider CDPH guidance, and discusses differences for childcare/k-12. Changes issued on 3/12 will be reflected here as well. <a href="https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx">https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx</a>
Masking	If programs choose to follow the mask mandate changes on 12 March and decide to make masks optional and someone in the cohort tests positive for COVID, will the expectation be that children return to masks for days 1-10 to remain in care under the modified quarantine guidelines?	Jennifer Hardy	Jennifer, the masking through day 10 would be highly recommended, especially for those exposed or recently positive. You can decide as a facility to implement masking during that time period. However, it would not be a requirement for children to remain in care as long as they are asymptomatic. A child who tests positive must remain in isolation for a minimum of 5 days.
Masking	Do you have any recommendations on metrics that we might follow to determine if it's the right time (for our school) to remove the mask mandate, and when to reinstate it if we do remove it?	Marilyn Rakow	Hi Marilyn, CDPH has not issued specific thresholds for individual protection measures. However, CDC's new community level tool can help direct childcare providers. Things to consider include vaccination status of employees and children, case rates and hospitalization rates in the local community, and what other measures are still being utilized in your facility (are your cohorts mixing or still staying separate, are any activities moved outside, how is your ventilation, are cleaning protocols remaining in place). <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html</a>
Masking	For clarification, will faculty still have to wear masks per Cal/OSHA until the end of the month?	Shelly Baker	No, after 3/12 they are not required to wear the mask. Continued masking is <i>recommended</i> for staff and children in childcare settings, but not required.
Masking	As a business can we still choose to continue mask for children and staff?	Barbara Saxton	Yes, you can. After March 11th, the universal masking requirement for k-12 and Childcare settings will end. But it is still <i>strongly recommended</i> that masking in these settings continue. Facilities still have the option to be more restrictive, just not less restrictive than the current guidance.
Testing	Molecular test is the PCR test?	Maria Mendoza	correct, PCR is a type of molecular test.
Testing	Is antigen test also a molecular test?	Maria Mendoza	No, they are 2 different types of test
Vaccines	Are vaccines going to be required for children 0-5 attending child care? If so what is the anticipated timeline?	Jessica Feliciano	There is no current requirement for vaccinations for children, it's only recommended. Please know a PIN would be issued if that changed.