

# COVID-19 Decision Table for Childcare Settings – January 25, 2024

This table highlights recommendations and requirements for Childcare Settings that reflect the [CDPH COVID-19 Isolation Guidance](#), CDPH [Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools and Child Care Settings to Support Safe In-Person Services and Mitigate the Spread of Communicable Diseases](#), and the [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations](#). Readers should review the source documents, follow applicable sections of the [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\)](#), and consult with their [CDSS Child Care Licensing Regional Office](#) as needed. Preschools, daycares, and school districts have the authority to exceed these recommendations and requirements.

SCENARIO	ATTENDEES / STUDENTS See <a href="#">CDPH Isolation Guidance</a>	EMPLOYEES See <a href="#">Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Non-Emergency Regulations FAQs</a>
<p><b>Those Who Have <a href="#">COVID-19-Like Symptoms</a></b></p>	<p>Should wear a mask (if 2 years of age or older) when experiencing respiratory symptoms and test for COVID-19.</p> <p>If positive, follow the directions below for students who test positive.</p> <p>Follow the <a href="#">Considerations when a Child has Symptoms of Illness in Childcare or School</a> to determine if the student should be sent home or stay at home.</p>	<p>Should wear a mask when experiencing respiratory symptoms and test for COVID-19.</p> <p>If positive, follow the directions below for employees who test positive.</p>
<p><b>Those Who Test Positive for COVID-19</b></p> <p>Day 0 is the day when symptoms started. Day 1 is the next day.</p>	<p><b>Symptomatic</b> Stay home when symptoms appear. May return to school when they are fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication AND other non-fever symptoms are mild and improving.</p> <p><b>Asymptomatic</b> Remain at school. If symptoms develop, follow the symptomatic guidance above.</p> <p><b>Additionally:</b> Students 2 years of age or older who test positive for COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should wear a mask indoors through day 10 after their symptom onset date, or positive test date if asymptomatic. Students may remove their mask sooner than 10 days if they have two sequential negative tests taken at least one day apart.</li> </ul> <p>All students who test positive for COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should avoid contact for 10 days with individuals who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Symptomatic</b> Stay home when symptoms appear. May return to work when they are fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication AND other non-fever symptoms are mild and improving.</p> <p><b>Asymptomatic</b> Remain at work. If symptoms develop, follow the symptomatic guidance above.</p> <p><b>All staff who test positive for COVID-19:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must wear a mask at work indoors through day 10 after their symptom onset or positive test date.</li> <li>Should avoid contact for 10 days with individuals who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Those Who Are Close Contacts</b></p> <p>Day 0 is the date of last exposure. Day 1 is the next day.</p>	<p>May remain at school unless they develop symptoms. If symptoms occur, then follow the symptomatic guidance above.</p> <p><b>All students who are close contacts should test for COVID-19 if they:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop symptoms (test right away)</li> <li>Are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 (test within 5 days)</li> <li>Are around others who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19. (test within 5 days and before contact)</li> </ol> <p>Students 2 years of age or older should wear a mask through day 10 after exposure if they develop symptoms, or when around others indoors who are higher risk for severe infection.</p>	<p>May remain at work unless they develop symptoms. If symptoms occur, then follow the symptomatic guidance above.</p> <p><b>All staff who are close contacts should test for COVID-19 if they:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop symptoms (test right away)</li> <li>Are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 (test within 5 days)</li> <li>Are around others who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19. (test within 5 days and before contact)</li> </ol> <p>They should wear a mask through day 10 after exposure if they develop symptoms, or when around others indoors who are at higher risk for severe infection.</p> <p><b>In an Outbreak Setting</b> (3 or more cases in 7 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff must wear a mask indoors or within six feet of others outdoors, until the site no longer qualifies as an outbreak setting.</li> <li>Staff must test for COVID-19 within 3-5 days of the close contact to remain at work.</li> <li>See Cal/OSHA FAQs - <a href="#">Outbreaks</a></li> </ul>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Definitions:

In most childcare settings, a **Close Contact** is defined as sharing the same indoor airspace as a COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during a COVID-19 case's infectious period.

For the purpose of isolation and exclusion, CDPH defines the **Infectious Period** as, from the day of symptom onset until 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND symptoms are mild and improving. For COVID-19 cases with no symptoms, there is no infectious period for the purpose of isolation or exclusion.

### Masking:

Children younger than 2 years of age should NOT wear masks. Masks should not be worn while sleeping/napping, eating, or during waterplay.

### Close Contact Notifications:

There are no close contact notification requirements for students. Employers are required to notify all employees and independent contractors who may have had close contact with a COVID-19 case while at work.

### Outbreak Reporting:

Providers are required to [report](#) COVID-19 outbreaks to their local health department and to their local licensing Regional Office. Outbreaks are three or more linked cases with onset dates (if symptomatic) or test dates (if asymptomatic) within one week of each other in a setting. Workplaces are required to report major outbreaks (20 or more cases within 30 days) to Cal/OSHA.

### Employer/Employee Requirements:

For comprehensive requirements for employers regarding COVID-19, please review the [COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) page.

Email [PHS.EPI-SCHOOLS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:PHS.EPI-SCHOOLS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov) or Call 619-692-8499 for additional questions.

