What to Do if a Child Becomes Sick Or Receives A New COVID-19 Diagnosis At Your Child Care Program

Child shows signs of an illness that could be COVID-19.¹ Arrange for child to be escorted from classroom or current space. Alert the COVID-19 point of contact (POC).²

COVID-19 POC escorts child to isolation room/area³ and ensures child is properly supervised. The parent or caregiver is called. Arrangements are made for the child to either go home or seek emergency medical attention.

Parent or caregiver picks up child and contacts healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test.

Clean and disinfect areas that the ill child occupied. Ventilate the area(s), wait at least several hours or longer if possible before cleaning to let virus particles settle, and use personal protective equipment (including protection needed for cleaning and disinfecting products) to reduce risk of infection.

Child returns
to child care
program following
program's
existing illness
management
policies.

Child has **negative** COVID-19 test result with no known close contact.

Child begins home

isolation.

COVID-19 POC starts a list of close contacts of the ill child and informs staff and parents or caregivers of close contacts of possible exposure.⁴ covided process with local health officials to assess spread and support follow up with staff and parents or caregivers of children that had contact with the ill child.

Child has **positive** COVID-19 test result.

Parents or caregivers of close contacts are advised to keep their children who are not fully vaccinated home (quarantine) for 14 days and to consult with the child's healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test.

- The most common symptoms include fever or chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, and poor appetite or poor feeding (especially in babies under 1 year old).
- The designated COVID-19 POC is often a staff person who is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns, such as a director.
- If you must place two or more children in the same isolation room/area, ensure that the space is well-ventilated, all children are supervised, the children stay at least 6 feet apart, and all children ages 2 years or older wear masks.
- 4. A close contact is someone who was less than 6 feet away from infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Members of the ill child's household and any child care provider or staff who are not fully vaccinated who had close contact with the ill child are advised to quarantine for 14 days. If fully vaccinated and asymptomatic, close contacts do not have to quarantine at home following an exposure. In addition to correctly wearing a mask in the child care program, they should wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test when testing 5–7 days after exposure. If fully vaccinated but experiencing symptoms, isolate immediately.

The ill child can return to the child care program and end isolation once the following criteria are met:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared, AND
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of feverreducing medication, AND
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving



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