

Scenario-based COVID-19 Guidance for Schools, Childcare, and Programs for Children and Youth

Updated December 2020

| Scenario | Action | Communication |
|---|---|--|
| Child or staff has symptoms of COVID-19 | Send home and recommend testing ASAP. Cohort¹ remains OPEN. | Reinforce importance of social distancing, hand hygiene, facial coverings, and symptom checks. |
| Child or staff has had close contact ² with someone with confirmed COVID-19. | Send home, instruct to quarantine for 10 days starting the day after last exposure. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days total. Recommend testing prior to returning, at least 8-10 days after last exposure (ASAP if symptoms develop). ³ Cohort remains OPEN. | Consider notifying staff and families of children in the cohort. See “Contact of Contact Advisory” template |
| Child or staff has confirmed COVID-19 infection | Notify Sonoma County Public Health (complete “Site Information Gathering Tool” prior): <i>Call (707) 565-4566 or e-mail to: Phnurse@sonoma-county.org</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep home with instructions to isolate at home for at least 10 days after the first symptoms occurred, they have been fever-free for >24 hours without using medication (such as Tylenol or Motrin), and symptoms have improved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If no symptoms, keep home for 10 days since the day they were tested. • Identify close contacts, which likely includes the entire cohort of the person with COVID-19. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct to quarantine for 10 days after the last exposure. • It is strongly recommended⁴ that exposed persons get tested for COVID-19 8-10 days after the last exposure, or sooner if symptoms develop. • Clean and disinfect spaces where the person with COVID-19 spent significant time. Cohort should be CLOSED for 10 days after last exposure. Non-exposed cohorts may remain open. | Notify staff and families of children who are close contacts using the “Close Contact Advisory” template. Notify all other staff and families of children about the COVID-19 case using the “General Exposure Advisory” template. |

¹ A cohort is defined as a stable group with fixed membership that stays together for all activities (e.g., lunch, recess) and avoids close contact with other persons or cohorts.

² See CDC definition of “close contact”: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#Key-Terms>

³ When possible, it is strongly advised to do an initial test for child or staff as soon as a close COVID contact is identified to prevent further spread within the cohort. If negative, testing needs to be repeated at Day 8-10 of 10d quarantine. A negative result on an early test does not exempt someone from testing on/after Day 8.

⁴ Students or staff who are tested too soon/not at all after an exposure are released from quarantine 10 days after the exposure given they have no symptoms of COVID-19. However, please be aware that without appropriately timed testing, the absence of COVID-19 infection cannot be guaranteed, and the person may be infectious. The facility may consider requiring additional 10-day isolation or proof of negative testing for these individuals.

Return-to-school criteria for children and staff in schools, childcares, and other programs serving youth after COVID-19 symptoms, close contact, or confirmed COVID-19

| Scenario | Criteria |
|--|---|
| Child or staff has a negative test after symptoms of COVID-19 OR an alternate diagnosis has been made by a healthcare provider | <p>Follow facility illness policy for non-COVID illnesses, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fever for 24-72 hours without use of fever-reducing medication • No nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea for 24-72 hours without the use of anti-nausea or anti-diarrhea medication • Well enough to participate in routine activities • Other criteria as determined by site <p>Follow any additional criteria determined by the patient's healthcare provider, if applicable</p> |
| Child or staff has symptoms of COVID-19, has not been tested for COVID-19, and has not received an alternate diagnosis from a medical provider | <p>Stay home until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms, AND • The person has had no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND • Symptoms have improved |
| Child or staff has symptoms of COVID-19 and was tested but is still waiting for the test result | <p>Stay home until the person has received their test result and a determination can be made as to how to proceed.</p> |
| Child or staff had a positive test/confirmed COVID-19 (with or without symptoms) | <p>Stay home until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms, AND • The person has had no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND • Symptoms have improved • If no symptoms, stay home until 10 days have passed since the date of the test. <p>A doctor's note does <u>not</u> override these criteria.</p> |
| Child or staff had close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19. | <p>Stay home for 10 days after last exposure. They must have no symptoms upon returning and <u>test negative on/after Day 8</u> (alternatively, may complete an additional 10-day isolation at the end of their initial quarantine).</p> <p>If the person has ongoing close contact with the person with COVID-19 (ie: a parent or sibling), the person must quarantine for 10 days <u>after</u> the person with COVID-19 is no longer infectious. In most cases, this is a total of 20 days after the person with COVID-19 first developed symptoms or had a positive test.</p> |