

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 <u>and 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>