COVID-19: WHEN A CHILD OR STAFF MEMBER CAN RETURN TO CHILD CARE

The Department of Children and Families, in consultation with the Department of Health Services, has developed the below guidance to assist child care providers and the families they serve in keeping their facility and community safe and healthy. This guidance is subject to change as additional information from CDC on preventing and managing COVID-19 in child care settings is released. **Children who cannot wear a mask due to age (e.g., 0-2 years) or ability, or are unable to socially distance during meal and nap times should isolate for 10 days. Child care programs that have a positive case, staff and/or child, are required to report the case to their local health department and licensing specialist.**

*Isolate: Individual should not attend/work at child care until it has been at least 5 days since symptom onset, they have been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medications), and their other symptoms are improving. They should wear a mask during days 6-10. If they can’t wear a mask they should isolate for 10 days.

**Quarantine: Individual should not attend/work at child care until quarantine is complete, following their last exposure to a person who was infectious. For quarantine timelines and exemptions (e.g., up-to-date vaccination OR a positive COVID-19 viral test within past 90 days) visit CDC’s [website](https://www.cdc.gov) and follow guidance based on your vaccine and symptom status.**

When calculating isolation and quarantine, the date of symptom onset/positive lab test (for asymptomatic) or last date of exposure to an infectious person is day 0. For example, individuals may return to child care on day 6 (isolation). For more information, visit the CDC’s [quarantine and isolation website](https://www.cdc.gov).

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