



# Returning to Child Care

Child care programs are required to adhere to the following guidelines for allowing a child or staff member to return to child care.

Exclusion Category	Scenario	Criteria to return to child care
<b>Diagnosis</b>	Person has tested <b>positive</b> with an <b>antigen test</b> but <b>does not have symptoms</b> of COVID-19	If the person takes a repeat PCR test performed in a laboratory within 24-48 hours of the positive antigen test, and that PCR test is negative, the positive antigen test can be considered a false positive and the person can immediately return to child care; OR If the person does not take a repeat PCR test or takes one within 24-48 hours and it is also positive, the person can return to school when they complete 10 days of isolation. Isolation should begin starting from the date of their first positive test.
<b>Diagnosis</b>	Person has tested <b>positive</b> with a <b>PCR test</b> but the person does <b>not</b> have symptoms.	Person can return to child care when he/she completes 10 days of isolation. Isolation should begin starting from the date of the first positive test.
<b>Symptoms</b>	Person <b>has symptoms</b> of COVID-19 and has tested <b>positive</b> with an <b>antigen test</b> or <b>PCR test</b>	Person can return to child care when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person completes 10 days of isolation. Isolation should begin starting from the first day of symptoms; AND</li> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.</li> </ul>
<b>Symptoms</b>	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has <b>not</b> been tested for COVID-19 nor has visited a health care provider. Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive.	Person can return to child care when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person completes 10 days of isolation. Isolation should begin starting from the first day of symptoms; AND</li> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.</li> </ul>
<b>Symptoms</b>	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has visited a health care provider and received an <b>alternate diagnosis</b> that would explain the symptoms of fever, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough or new loss of taste or smell, and the health care provider has determined COVID-19 testing is not needed.	Person can return to child care when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• They have felt well for at least 24 hours.</li> </ul> <p>Note: The health care provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis.</p>
<b>Exposure</b>	Person has been in <b>close contact</b> with someone <b>with a confirmed case of COVID-19</b> .	Person can return to school after completing 14 days of quarantine. The 14 days of quarantine begin after the last known close contact with the COVID-19-positive individual.  <b>The person must complete the 14-day quarantine, even if he/she had a negative test during the quarantine period.</b>
<b>Household Member, Exposure</b>	Person is a <b>household member</b> (e.g. a sibling) of someone <b>with a confirmed case of COVID-19</b> .	Person can return to child care after completing 14 days of quarantine. The 14 days of quarantine begin at the end of the 10-day isolation of the person with COVID-19.
<b>Household Member, Symptoms</b>	Person is a <b>household member</b> (e.g. a sibling) of someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 but who has not been tested for COVID-19, nor has visited a health care provider. Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive.	Person can return to school after completing 14 days of quarantine. Because COVID-19 was not ruled out, presumption is that person may remain infectious for up to 10 days after symptom onset. The 14 days of quarantine begin at the end of this 10-day isolation period.
<b>Household Member, Symptoms</b>	Person is a <b>household member</b> (e.g. a sibling) of someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 but has visited a health care provider and received an <b>alternate diagnosis</b> that would explain the symptoms of fever, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough or new loss of taste or smell, and the health care provider has determined COVID-19 testing is not needed.	Person can return to school when household member receives their alternate diagnosis.  Note: The health care provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis.