

January 19, 2022

Dear Village Early Childhood Center Families,

As many of you are aware, the CDC and the NJDOH have shortened the isolation and quarantine timeframes based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of Covid-19. On January 12, 2022 the NJDOH updated guidance for K-12, but childcare settings have yet to be updated. After communication with the local Harrington Park Health Department, we are permitted to adapt the K-12 guidance for children age **two years and older** at our childcare center. Please note that policies and protocols may appear slightly different at each center or school based on the population served. Effective **immediately**, we are making some significant changes to our existing Covid-19 practices and protocols regarding testing, close contacts, and quarantine timeframes for children who are **two years and older**. This includes individuals who are currently in quarantine. For these policies to work, and for our Village to stay as healthy as possible, it is imperative that all community members be forthcoming with any symptoms or sickness that may present during the school year. Here is an overview of our updated policies:

MASKS

Please refer to the mask policy from 10/25/21 required for children age two years and older.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND COHORTING

Children will be in cohorts during meal times and will physically distance where classroom space permits.

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL

Parents should not send students to school when sick. Children who meet the following criteria will be excluded and may need a Covid-19 test to return.

At least **two** of the following symptoms:

Fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, runny nose

OR

At least **one** of the following symptoms:

Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

Exception: For students with documented chronic illness, only new symptoms, or symptoms worse than baseline, will warrant need for exclusion and/or testing.

Exception: If your child has had no known close contact with someone positive for Covid-19 in the last five days, and the doctor provides an alternate diagnosis (i.e. strep throat), they do not need a Covid-19 test to return.

ISOLATION (applies to Covid-19 positive persons)

Applicable to all children who test positive for Covid-19, whether or not they are symptomatic, and regardless of age, vaccination status, or previous Covid-19 diagnosis. Isolation guidelines also apply to children with Covid-19 symptoms who were not tested or who are awaiting test results.

Isolate for 10 days from symptom onset or positive test (whichever came first) and return on Day 11 without testing as long as symptoms have improved and child has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

OR

Isolate for 7 days from symptom onset or positive test (whichever came first) and return on Day 8 with a negative test taken on or after Day 7 as long as symptoms have improved and child has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

QUARANTINE (applies to close contacts)

A **close contact** is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for at least 15 total minutes over a 24 hour period without proper protective measures in place (e.g. mask wearing).

A person is considered **fully vaccinated** if it has been at least 2 weeks since the final dose of their Covid-19 vaccination series.

Who ***does not*** need to quarantine?

Individuals in the following groups who had close contact with someone with Covid-19 **DO NOT** need to quarantine, but should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days and get tested at least 5 days after last close contact. If the test is positive for Covid-19, or if Covid-19 symptoms develop at any point, follow the isolation guidelines above.

- Children and adolescents 5-17 years old who are fully vaccinated.
- Children who had confirmed Covid-19 within the last 90 days (positive viral test) and have since recovered.

Who ***does*** need to quarantine?

Individuals in the following groups who had close contact with someone with Covid-19 **DO** need to quarantine and should take additional precautions during and after quarantine.

- Children who are not eligible to receive the vaccine AND have not had confirmed Covid-19 (positive viral test) in the last 90 days.
- Children who are eligible to receive the vaccine but are not fully vaccinated AND have not had confirmed Covid-19 (positive viral test) in the last 90 days.

How to Quarantine:

Children age 2 and older:

Stay home for at least 5 days from close contact and return on Day 6 if asymptomatic AND with a negative test taken on or after Day 5.

OR

Stay home for 10 days from close contact and return on Day 11 without testing if child has remained asymptomatic. If Covid-19 symptoms develop, get tested and follow the isolation guidelines above.

Children under the age of 2:

Stay home for at least 7 days from close contact and return on Day 8 if asymptomatic AND with a negative test taken on or after Day 5.

OR

Stay home for 10 days from close contact and return on Day 11 without testing if child has remained asymptomatic. If Covid-19 symptoms develop, get tested and follow the isolation guidelines above.

Household Contacts:

If a household member is exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19, the child should stay home while the household member is awaiting test results. The child may return to school if the household member's test result is negative.

A child who is a close contact of a household member with confirmed Covid-19 should begin their quarantine period on the last day of contact with that person ***IF the positive contact IS able to consistently isolate from the rest of the household or wear a well-fitted mask at all times*** (i.e. the day before the positive contact began isolating is Day 1 of the child's quarantine).

If the positive contact IS NOT able to isolate from the rest of the household or wear a well-fitted mask at all times, the child should remain at home and their quarantine calculation will begin after the positive contact's first five days of 'isolation' (i.e. Day 6 of the positive contact's 'isolation period' is Day 1 of the child's quarantine period). For our purposes, the positive contact's 'isolation period' is calculated according to our isolation guidelines above.

If at any point the child develops Covid-19 symptoms, they should get tested and follow the isolation guidelines above.

Children **age two years and older** may 'test out of quarantine' and return on Day 6 of their quarantine period if they remain asymptomatic **AND** with a negative test taken on or after Day 5.

Children **younger than age two** may 'test out of quarantine' and return on Day 8 of their quarantine period if they remain asymptomatic **AND** with a negative test taken on or after Day 5.

TESTING

In order to 'test out of quarantine,' ***the test must be performed in a clinical setting; at-home tests are not accepted.*** Antigen tests are accepted, but PCR tests are preferred.

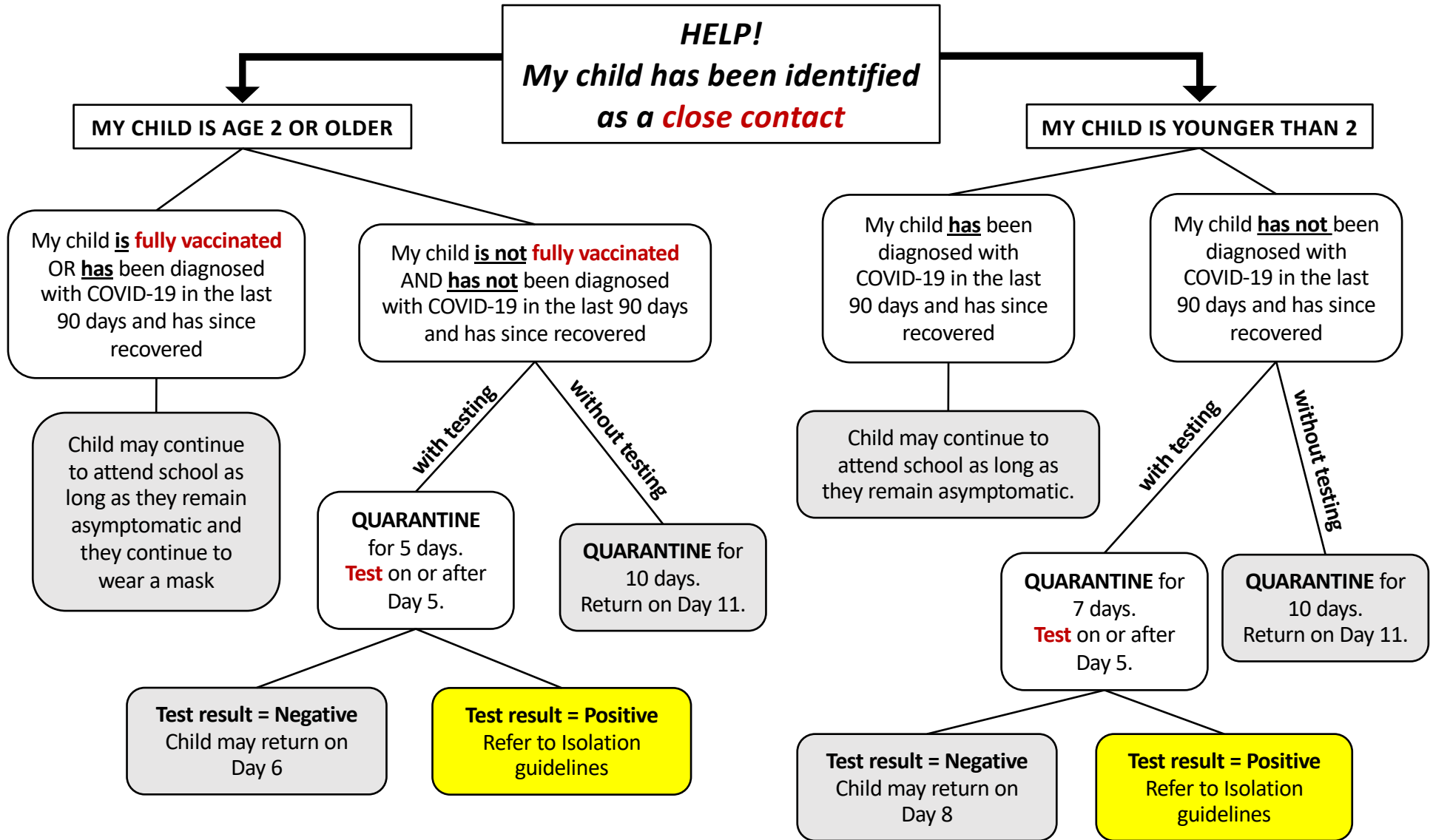
All test results must be emailed or faxed to the VECC office ***before*** a child returns to school. The school office ***must*** confirm receipt of the negative test result before a child is admitted into the building.

Email: Discovernps@gmail.com

Fax: (201) 767-9919

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate the ever-changing guidance. We know there is an ABUNDANCE of information throughout the protocols. We have attached flow charts to assist you in determining plan of action for those that need to isolate or quarantine. In the instance the NJDOH updates guidance for childcare centers, we will adjust the policies and protocols accordingly and families will be notified at that time.

QUARANTINE GUIDELINES



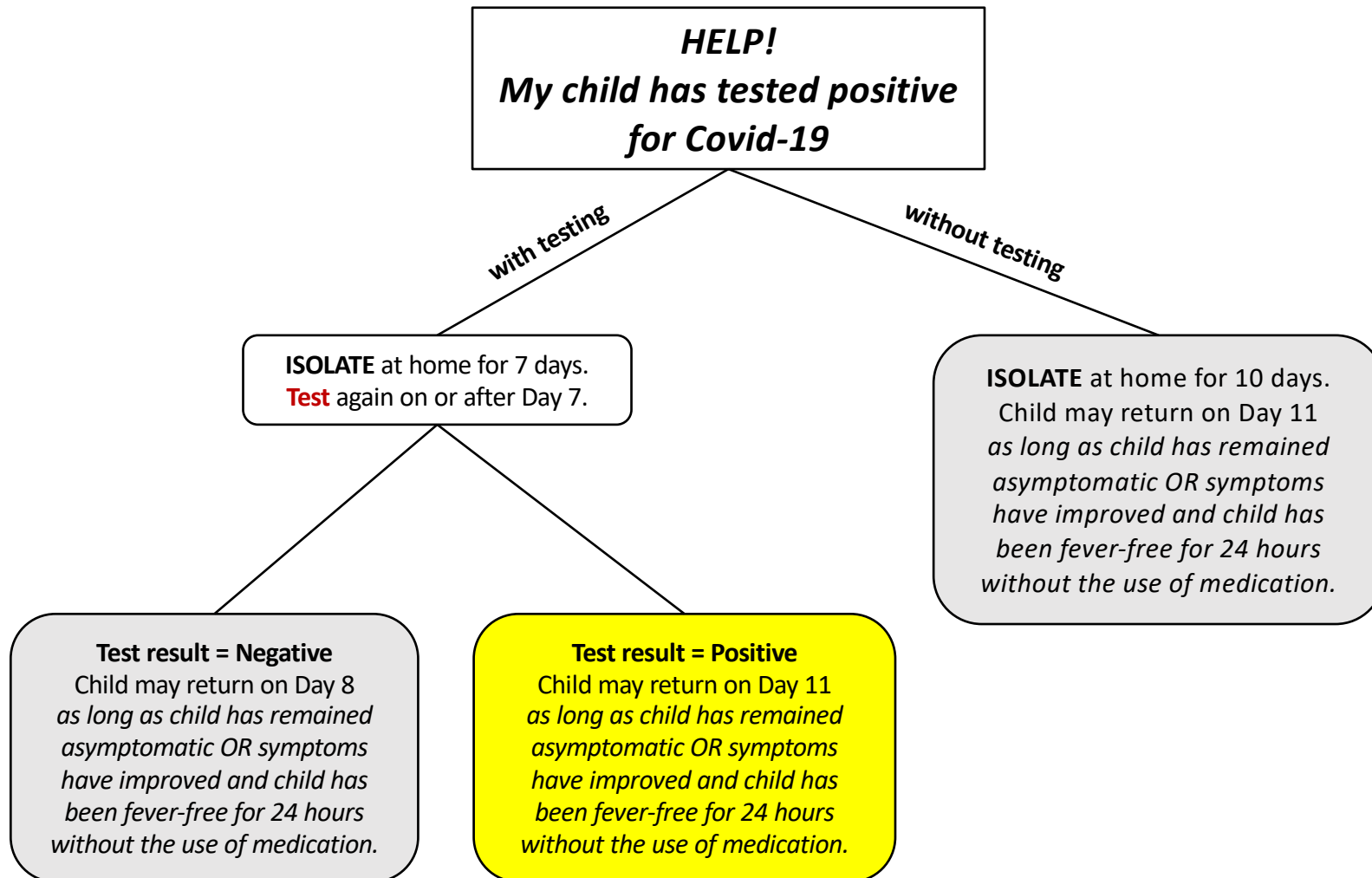
***Close contact** – Has been within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for at least 15 total minutes over a 24 hour period.

***Fully vaccinated** – It has been at least 2 weeks since the final dose of a COVID-19 vaccination series.

***Test** – In order to ‘test out of quarantine,’ the test must be performed in a clinical setting; at-home tests are not accepted. Antigen tests will be accepted, but PCR tests are preferred.

ISOLATION GUIDELINES

**Follow the same procedure regardless of age, vaccination status, or previous Covid-19 diagnosis.*



CALCULATION GUIDELINES

For the purposes of calculating **ISOLATION: Day 1 is considered to be the day of symptom onset OR the day a positive test sample was taken, whichever came first.

EXAMPLE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Symptoms begin	Covid-19 test taken	Test results come back positive for Covid-19		
		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	

For the purposes of calculating **QUARANTINE: Day 1 is considered to be the last day a child was a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

EXAMPLE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Last day of exposure			
			Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11

CALCULATION GUIDELINES: HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS

If a household member is exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19, the child should remain at home. If the household contact IS able to consistently isolate from the rest of the household or wear a well-fitted mask at all times:

****For the purposes of calculating a child's QUARANTINE: Day 1 is considered to be the day before the positive contact began isolating from household (i.e. the last day of contact).**

EXAMPLE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Household contact's symptoms begin	Household contact begins isolating from rest of household first thing in the morning	Household contact takes Covid-19 test		Household contact's results come back positive for Covid-19	
	Child's Quarantine Day 1	Child's Quarantine Day 2	Child's Quarantine Day 3	Child's Quarantine Day 4	Child's Quarantine Day 5	Child's Quarantine Day 6
Child's Quarantine Day 7	Child's Quarantine Day 8	Child's Quarantine Day 9	Child's Quarantine Day 10	Child's Quarantine Day 11		

CALCULATION GUIDELINES: HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS

If a household member is exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19, the child should remain at home. If the household contact IS NOT able to consistently isolate from the rest of the household or wear a well-fitted mask at all times:

****For the purposes of calculating the end of a child's QUARANTINE: Day 1 is considered to be Day 6 of a household positive contact's 'isolation period.'**

EXAMPLE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Contact's Isolation Period Day 1 Household contact's symptoms begin</p> <p>Child stays home</p>	<p>Contact's Isolation Period Day 2 Household contact takes Covid-19 test</p> <p>Child stays home</p>	<p>Contact's Isolation Period Day 3</p> <p>Child stays home</p>	<p>Contact's Isolation Period Day 4 Household contact's results come back positive for Covid-19</p> <p>Child stays home</p>	<p>Contact's Isolation Period Day 5</p> <p>Child stays home</p>	<p>Contact's Isolation Period Day 6</p> <p>Child's Quarantine Day 1</p>
<p>Contact's Isolation Period Day 7</p> <p>Child's Quarantine Day 2</p>	<p>Contact's Isolation Period Day 8</p> <p>Child's Quarantine Day 3</p>	<p>Contact's Isolation Period Day 9</p> <p>Child's Quarantine Day 4</p>	<p>Contact's Isolation Period Day 10</p> <p>Child's Quarantine Day 5</p>	<p>Contact's Isolation Period Day 11</p> <p>Child's Quarantine Day 6</p>	<p>Child's Quarantine Day 7</p>	<p>Child's Quarantine Day 8</p>
<p>Child's Quarantine Day 9</p>	<p>Child's Quarantine Day 10</p>	<p>Child's Quarantine Day 11</p>				