

Cases of COVID-19 in the Child Care Setting

The child care facility is notified of a confirmed or probable case in a child, teacher, or staff member

IMMEDIATELY implement the following steps:

1. The case must be excluded from child care or work for the duration of their isolation period.
2. Any household members (e.g., siblings, etc.) are automatically considered close contacts and must be excluded from child care or work for the duration of their quarantine period. Household members may be exempt from quarantine if it is determined they were not a close contact based on the case interview or if they meet the exemptions below.
3. Determine whether the case was at the child care facility while contagious. The contagious period includes 2 calendar days before the onset of symptoms (e.g., if symptom onset occurred on a Wednesday, the case would have been contagious at school both Monday and Tuesday, regardless of the time of symptom onset), or if asymptomatic, 2 calendar days before the day they were tested through the day they started isolation.
 - If no, further action is not needed after excluding the case and household members
 - If yes, perform the following:
 - Identify all close contacts (step 4).
 - Plan to close and clean and disinfect any spaces the person was in while contagious.
4. Identify close contacts:
 - Anyone in the same classroom including staff and other children
 - Any individuals, outside of the classroom, that were within 6 feet of the case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes¹ or more within a 24-hour period.

¹ Recommendations may vary on the length of time of exposure, but a cumulative total of 15 minutes of close exposure can be used as an operational definition. Data are insufficient to precisely define the duration or length of time for prolonged exposure. Additionally, there is little data to determine the effect of multiple short-term exposures (when the cumulative exposure equals or exceeds 15 minutes). Brief interactions are less likely to result in transmission; however, the type of interaction (e.g., did the infected person cough directly in another person's face or did the infected person engage in high-exertion

- If there is uncertainty about the length of exposure or proximity to the case, the individual should be considered a close contact.
 - Exemptions:
 - Any person that is fully vaccinated
 - See Vaccination Verification.
 - Any person with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 in the previous 3 months.
 - Exclude close contact from the child care setting until they have completed all requirements in DPH's Return to Child Care Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure
 - Close contacts that become ill and are diagnosed with COVID-19 must be excluded for their isolation period and until told they are no longer contagious. Refer to DPH's Return to Child Care Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure.
5. Notifications:
- Notify families of close contacts and inform them of DPH's Return to Child Care Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure and when their child can return to child care.
 - Send notification letters to parents. **Notify public health of the case and all contacts.**

Note: The entire facility does not need to be closed when a positive case is identified. The affected classroom and certain areas of the building may need to close temporarily while staff and children quarantine and while proper cleaning and disinfecting is taking place. However, if the child care facility is unsure of who is a close contact, it may be necessary to close for a few days while close contacts are identified.

6. Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. If possible, wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.

exercise with others) remain important. Individuals who are unable to maintain physical distance from others throughout the day (e.g., individuals have multiple exposures to a case and either are unable to calculate total time exposed or exposure equal or exceed 15 minutes in total) may be considered a close contact. If a person clearly meets definitions as a "close contact", that person should follow quarantine guidance prior to public health assessment. If there are questions Public Health will perform a risk assessment to determine who is considered a close contact if the duration or type of contact is in question.

Child, Teacher or Staff with Symptoms (No Testing and Not Linked to Positive Case)

When a child, teacher, or staff member has symptoms, the child care facility should implement their existing illness management policy, which should include sending home anyone with signs or symptoms of an infectious illness. The symptomatic individual should not return to child care until they meet the criteria of the child care facility's illness management policy (e.g., the person cannot return until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications).

Exception: If a healthcare provider suspects COVID-19, the symptomatic individual should remain out of child care and follow the Return to Child Care Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure

Quarantining close contacts is not necessary. However, the facility should continue to monitor children, teachers, and staff for clinical signs and symptoms.

If the symptomatic individual identifies exposure to a laboratory-confirmed COVID case, the recommendations for isolation should be followed and the individual should remain out of child care until they meet the criteria in the Return to Child Care Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure.

Notify your local public health district of the case.

Returning to Child Care

Child care facilities are **required** to:

Enforce staff and children stay home if:

- They have tested positive for OR are showing COVID-19 symptoms, until they meet DPH's "Return to Child Care Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure".
- They have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19, until they meet DPH's "Return to Child Care Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure".

Advise positive or ill individuals of DPH's home isolation criteria.

Situation:	Criteria to return to Child Care:
<p>Person has symptoms of COVID-19 and has been diagnosed with or tested positive for COVID-19</p>	<p>Person can return to the child care facility when they can answer yes to ALL three questions:</p> <p>Has it been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared?</p> <p>Has it been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)?</p> <p>Has it been at least 24 hours since the person's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?</p> <p>Once the criteria above are met, it is not necessary to require a negative COVID-19 test to return to child care.</p>
<p>Person has not had symptoms of COVID-19 but has been diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a positive test</p>	<p>Person can return to the child care facility once 10 days passed since the date of their first positive test.</p> <p>However, if the person develops symptoms of COVID-19 after their positive test, they must be able to answer yes to ALL three questions listed above before returning to child care.</p>
<p>Person has been excluded because of COVID-19 symptoms but then tests negative for COVID-19</p>	<p>Person can return to the child care facility once they can answer yes to both questions:</p> <p>Has it been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines?</p> <p>Has the person felt well for at least past 24 hours?</p>

<p>Person has been excluded because of COVID-19 symptom(s) and was not tested</p>	<p>Person can return to child care facility: 24 hours since the person had a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines AND/OR 24 hours since symptoms resolved.</p>
<p>Person that is not fully vaccinated has been determined to be in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19</p>	<p>A 14-day quarantine period is still recommended. However, asymptomatic individuals may return to child care after they have completed all requirements in the DPH guidance for persons exposed to COVID-19 found at https://dph.georgia.gov/contact</p>
<p>Person that is fully vaccinated has been determined to be in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19</p>	<p>Person does not need to quarantine. However, they should monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days and follow the isolation guidance if any symptoms develop. CDC recommends that fully vaccinated individuals test 3-5 days following an exposure and wear a mask for 14 days or until they receive a negative test.</p>

Reporting

Child Care facilities are **required** to

- Notify DECAL and your local public health department **immediately** when a positive COVID-19 **case** is identified in the child care facility setting. Providers should report directly to their child care consultant AND fax or e-mail the "COVID-19 Positive Reporting Form and Close Contacts".
- Notify your local public health department of **clusters or outbreaks** of COVID-19 **IMMEDIATELY** (as required by **§ OCGA 31-12-2**).