

[COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs](#)

Children Diagnosed with COVID-19

Prompt management of children with COVID-19 can prevent further spread and, in some cases, allow for early treatment.

1. Recommended Practices:

- Children diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in [Table 1 \(Persons Who Test Positive for COVID-19\)](#) of CDPH's guidance for the general public, including staying home for at least 5 days and wearing a well-fitting mask unless exempted (see Using Facemasks section above) around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings. The following exceptions apply for child care attendees:
 - Children under 2 years of age with COVID-19 infection may discontinue isolation after Day 5.
 - Testing may be considered on Day 5 but is not necessary before discontinuation of isolation.
 - Children 2 years of age and older with COVID-19 infection may discontinue isolation after Day 5.
 - Testing is recommended at Day 5.

Employees (Providers or Staff) Diagnosed with COVID-19

Prompt management of providers or staff with COVID-19 can prevent further spread and, in some cases, allow for early treatment.

1. Required Actions:

- In covered workplaces, employees who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must follow [Cal/OSHA](#) requirements. See [COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards Frequently Asked Questions](#) for Isolation and Quarantine for more information.

2. Recommended Practices:

- Providers or staff with COVID-19 should follow the recommendations listed in CDPH's Table 1 (Persons Who Test Positive for COVID-19). Employees diagnosed with COVID-19 who qualify to return to work before 10 days should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days.

Table 1: Persons Who Should Isolate

Persons Who Test Positive for COVID-19	Recommended Actions
Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or lack of symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay home (PDF) for at least 5 days after start of symptoms (Day 0) or after date of first positive test (Day 0) if no symptoms).• Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen* collected on Day 5 or later tests negative.• If unable to test, choosing not to test, or testing positive on Day 5 (or later), isolation can end after Day 10 if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.• If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 24 hours after fever resolves.• If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after Day 10. If symptoms are severe, or if the infected person is at high risk of serious disease, or if they have questions concerning care, infected persons should contact their healthcare provider for available treatments.• Per CDPH masking guidance, infected persons should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings (see masking section below for additional information). <p>*Antigen test recommended.</p>

Table 2: Close Contacts – (No Quarantine)

Asymptomatic Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (No Quarantine)	Recommended Actions
<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Persons infected within the prior 30 days do not need to be tested, quarantined, or excluded from work unless symptoms develop.</p> <p>Persons in high-risk settings* should follow recommendations and requirements as listed below.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test within 3–5 days after last exposure.• Per CDPH masking guidance, close contacts should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings and when near those at higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease (see masking section below for additional information).• Strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or boosted.• If symptoms develop, test, and stay home (see earlier section on symptomatic persons), AND• If test result is positive, follow isolation recommendations above (Table 1).

Masking

As noted above, infected persons should isolate for five days, and mask indoors and when around others during a full 10 days following symptom onset (or positive test if no symptoms). Exposed persons should mask for 10 days following an identified close contact to someone with COVID-19, especially high-risk contacts.

Managing People Exposed to COVID-19

Prompt notification to employees, children, and families regarding exposure to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, can allow for rapid testing, early treatment, and prevention of further spread. Respect privacy laws when providing exposure information and do not share the identity of or other confidential information about the person who had COVID-19 when notifying employees, children, and families.

1. Recommended Practices:

- Families should notify child care providers if their child has COVID-19 and was in care during their [infectious period](#), and child care providers should notify people who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g., classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their infectious period.

- For employees, exposures in the workplace may be subject to [Cal/OSHA requirements](#).
- Children and employees with known exposure to persons with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in [Table 2 \(Asymptomatic Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19\)](#) of CDPH's guidance for the general public, including testing. As recommended in [Table 2](#), they should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days and get tested 3–5 days after last exposure.
- Exposed people should be monitored for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) and tested if symptoms develop at any time.
- Sometimes people with COVID-19 have a negative antigen test in the first days of symptoms. Individuals should consider repeat testing every 24-48 hours until a positive test or until symptoms improve. In most situations, any person who develops new, unexplained symptoms should not return to care until it is clear that symptoms are mild and improving or not due to an infectious cause.

Summary of Guidance for COVID-19 in Child Care Settings

Use the chart below for a quick reference to supplement additional information within this document.

Note: Providers may contact their local [Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies](#) or [local First 5](#) offices for information about obtaining Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies.

	Child Care Workforce	Children
Recommendations when diagnosed with COVID-19	Child Care workforce diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow the recommendations listed in Table 1 (Persons Who Test Positive for COVID-19) of CDPH's guidance for the general public, including staying home for at least 5 days and wearing a well-fitting mask unless exempted (see Using Facemasks section above) around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings. days and wearing a well-	Children diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in Table 1 (Persons Who Test Positive for COVID-19) of CDPH's guidance for the general public, including staying home for at least 5 days and wearing a well-fitting mask unless exempted (see Using Facemasks section above) around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.

	<p>fitting mask unless exempted (see Using Facemasks section above) around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.</p>	
<p>Isolation</p>	<p>Providers must take action to exclude or isolate any , parent, caregiver, or staff showing symptoms of a contagious disease or illness as required pursuant to Title 22 CCR</p> <p>California requires employers to provide COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for certain workers through December 31, 2022 as stated in AB 152. This includes circumstances in which workers are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis, attending a vaccine appointment for themselves or for a family member, and/or if a worker's child is isolating due to COVID-19 infection.</p>	<p>Providers must take action to exclude or isolate any child showing symptoms of a contagious disease or illness as required pursuant to Title 22 CCR</p> <p>Isolated children must continue to receive adequate care and supervision and the health of the child must be continually observed while in the facility according to licensing requirements</p> <p>The following exceptions apply for children infected with COVID-19:</p> <p>Children under 2 years of age with COVID-19 infection may discontinue isolation after Day 5.</p> <p>Testing may be considered on Day 5 but is not necessary before discontinuation of isolation.</p> <p>Children 2 years of age and older with COVID-19 infection may discontinue isolation after Day 5.</p> <p>Testing is recommended at Day 5.</p>

<p>Face Masks</p>	<p>Providers should follow the current CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Masks.</p> <p>Providers must ensure compliance with the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention ETS, and any additional local health jurisdiction requirements that go beyond this statewide guidance.</p>	<p>CDPH strongly recommends that all individuals follow CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Masks.</p>
<p>Gloves</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>For tasks such as serving food, diapering, handling trash, laundry of an ill person, or using cleaning and disinfectant products.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Hand Sanitizer</p> <p>Should contain at least 60% ethyl alcohol (preferred) or at least 70% isopropyl alcohol (a neurotoxin and eye irritant).</p> <p>WARNING: Do not use any products that contain methanol.</p>	<p>OK, Optional</p> <p>Frequent handwashing with soap and water is more effective than the use of hand sanitizers, and is the preferred method of hand cleaning.</p>	<p>Only with Adult Supervision</p> <p>Must be kept out of children's reach. Call Poison Control if consumed:</p> <p>800-222-1222</p> <p>Frequent handwashing is more effective than use of hand sanitizers. Sanitizer must be rubbed into children's hands until completely dry. Hand sanitizer is NOT recommended for children under 24 months.</p>
<p>Tests for COVID-19</p> <p>Antigen tests are preferred in the</p>	<p>Please share this information with your community.</p>	

<p>child care setting for rapid results.</p>	<p>Plan ahead to have tests at home before getting sick or being exposed. Available at most pharmacies, no doctor's prescription needed. Check with your local pharmacy or retail store.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-home tests—8 per month per person— are FREE with health insurance. Medical or Medicare: bring your insurance card to any pharmacy. Private insurance: check if you can get tests directly, or submit a receipt for reimbursement. <p>More details are available at the California COVID-19 Testing site.</p>	
<p>Vaccination</p>	<p>COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended for all eligible people in California, including providers, teachers, staff, children, and individuals sharing homes with members</p>	

	of our child care communities.	
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[California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 3205. COVID-19 Prevention.](#) *(for employees)*

(A) COVID-19 cases, regardless of vaccination status or previous infection, who do not develop COVID-19 symptoms or whose COVID-19 symptoms are resolving, shall not return to work until:

1. At least five days have passed from the date that COVID-19 symptoms began or, if the person does not develop COVID-19 symptoms, from the date of first positive COVID-19 test;

2. At least 24 hours have passed since a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher has resolved without the use of fever reducing medications; and

3. A negative COVID-19 test from a specimen collected on the fifth day or later is obtained; or, if unable to test or the employer chooses not to require a test, 10 days have passed from the date that COVID-19 symptoms began or, if the person does not develop COVID-19 symptoms, from the date of first positive COVID-19 test.

(B) COVID-19 cases, regardless of vaccination status or previous infection, whose COVID-19 symptoms are not resolving, may not return to work until:

1. At least 24 hours have passed since a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication; and

2. Symptoms are resolving or 10 days have passed from when the symptoms began.

(C) Regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or lack of COVID-19 symptoms, a COVID-19 case shall wear a face covering in the workplace until 10 days have passed since the date that COVID-19 symptoms began or, if the person did not have COVID-19 symptoms, from the date of their first positive COVID-19 test.