



Note: This guidance is no longer in effect. This document is provided only for historical purposes. Visit the [California Department of Public Health's COVID-19 website](#) for current COVID-19 public health guidance.

COVID-19: Case and Contact Management in Child Care Programs



Children, parents, child care providers and other staff with COVID-19 symptoms should not be allowed in any child care program.

LICENSEES, ADMINISTRATORS, CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND STAFF IN ALL CHILD CARE PROGRAMS SHOULD:

- ✔ Become familiar with and implement [COVID-19 Update Guidance: Child Care Programs and Providers \(PDF\)](#) and the [CDC Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open](#).
- ✔ Coordinate case and contact management with local Public Health.

Child Care Programs Are:

Care and supervision programs for children who are not yet in Kindergarten in an elementary school and school aged children:

- ▶ Child care centers
- ▶ Child development programs
- ▶ Family child care homes
- ▶ Preschools and Head Start programs
- ▶ School age programs
- ▶ Pre-K, transitional and regular Kindergarten when not part of a public elementary school program
- ▶ License-exempt, popup and temporary employer-sponsored care
- ▶ Day and organized camps

When COVID-19 Symptoms Are Noticed

In a Child:

- ✔ Immediately remove a child with symptoms from the cohort.
- ✔ Place the child in a supervised designated isolation area until the child's parent or authorized representative arrives.
- ✔ Inform the child care licensee, director or lead staff member in charge.

In Providers and Staff:

- ✔ Immediately inform the child care director or licensee and have the individual leave the child care program.
- ✔ Ensure staffing ratios are maintained.

When learning of a child, parent, provider or staff with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection, the child care director should contact the **local health department and the local Child Care Licensing Regional Office** for assistance.

When People Are Sick

They should isolate at home when symptoms first appear. They should NOT return until:

✓ 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**



✓ 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever reducing medications **and**



✓ Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving



When a COVID-19 Case Is Confirmed

- ✓ When a confirmed case is reported, identify and contact all people who were **exposed**.
- ✓ Treat the *entire cohort*, classroom or other group as exposed—particularly if they have spent time together indoors. This is a best practice for all child care settings operating licensed or with a waiver.
- ✓ Do not allow anyone who has been identified as exposed to COVID-19 into the child care program.
- ✓ Exposed people should quarantine at home for 10 days, beginning on the day after their last exposure to the infectious case.
- ✓ Consult the local public health department to make decisions on public health actions beyond removing the sick child or adult from the child care program.

EXPOSED MEANS WITHIN 6 FEET OR LESS OF THE INFECTED PERSON FOR 15 MINUTES OR MORE.

TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ All persons with COVID-19 symptoms should be tested, but not required.
- ✓ Testing of exposed people without symptoms can be considered if local lab capacity permits.
- ✓ People with symptoms who have a negative test result may return to the child care program 24 hours after symptoms completely clear up.
- ✓ All exposed people must quarantine and not return to the child care program for 10 days even with a negative test result.

Closing a Child Care Program

- ✓ If cases have been identified in more than one cohort, consider closure in consultation with the local health department. Notify your regional licensing office and all parents.
- ✓ In family child care homes, the child care home should be closed when an infected individual must continue to live in the home. Follow cleaning recommendations if an infected individual moves out of the home.

Reopening a Child Care Program

A CHILD CARE PROGRAM CAN REOPEN AFTER:

- ✓ Following CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection **and**
- ✓ Consulting with the local health department

Please call your regional licensing office when reopening.

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