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Frequently Asked Questions for Child Care Operations

If you have further questions than the ones listed in this document, please call our COVID-19 Call Center at 303-220-9200 or email: EHChildcare@tchd.org

Quarantine, Isolation, and Outbreaks

Can a negative test release someone from quarantine?

No, the 14-day quarantine period is based on the incubation period of COVID-19. A negative test does not mean the individual will not develop COVID-19 later on during the quarantine period.

What kind of test should I get?

We recommend a PCR test. If a child or staff member had contact with someone with COVID-19, we recommend they get a PCR test on day 7 of quarantine. This allows people who test positive to isolate, and allows public health to conduct additional contact tracing. Serology or antibody testing cannot be used to make decisions about quarantining, returning to school, or cohorting. We do not recommend serology or antibody tests.

What if a parent or other household member of a child is diagnosed with COVID-19?

The child should stay home for 14 days total, including school days and off days, even if the child is not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. There is no need for further action in the school unless the child gets sick or ends up having a positive test. We do not recommend school or public notification in this situation.

What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?

Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease, like COVID-19, from others while they are infectious. Quarantine separates people who were exposed to COVID-19, but have not developed symptoms or evidence of infection. Quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease from people who become infectious after exposure. This is very important for COVID-19, because people can spread the virus even when they do not have symptoms.

Should siblings of a child with COVID-19 quarantine?

The siblings of people with COVID-19 will likely be considered close contacts because they often live in the same house as the person who has COVID-19. They will stay home for a 14-day quarantine. TCHD may recommend siblings get tested for COVID-19 about 7 days after they were in contact with their sick sibling.

Should siblings of a child who is quarantined also be quarantined?

The siblings of people who are home for quarantine because they were exposed to COVID-19 do not need to stay home or be tested. If the sibling in quarantine develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, then the siblings would need to quarantine. Parents should closely monitor all of their children for symptoms.

Where is there more information on quarantine, isolation and outbreaks?

Visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's [School and Childcare Outbreak FAQs](#).

The most current guidance is [CDPHE Cases and outbreaks in child care and schools](#)

Decision Tools to use for ill or exposed students and staff:

- [How Sick is Too Sick?](#)
- [Can I go to School Today?](#)
- [Child/teacher/staff feels or appears sick after arriving at school](#)
- [Return to school/work guidance following a positive symptom screen for COVID-19](#)
- [What about the class?](#)

Mask Use

Who does not have to wear a mask?

- People who are 10 years old and younger.
- People who cannot medically tolerate a face covering.
- Children ages 2 and under should NOT wear masks or cloth face coverings.

Other information on masks:

- [Wearing Masks At School](#)
- [Questions & answers about the statewide mandatory mask order](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions on Tri-County Health Department' Mask Order](#)

Sanitizers and Disinfectants

Is the sanitizer or disinfectant I am using approved for child care centers in Colorado?

You can check to see if your sanitizer or disinfectant is approved using this [list](#) of approved sanitizers and disinfectants.

Is the sanitizer or disinfectant I am using approved by the EPA to use in a child care center?

The [Perdue Website](#) has a tool to help you check to see if your sanitizer or disinfectant is approved by the EPA.



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Is the sanitizer or disinfectant I am using effective against COVID-19?

Check out this [list of sanitizers and disinfectants that are effective against COVID-19](#).

For More Information:

- [TCHD School Support Webpage – for Schools and Child Care Facilities](#)
 - **WEBINAR RECORDING:** August 20: [Connecting with School District Leaders Webinar Recording](#) and [Q&A from Webinar](#)
 - **WEBINAR RECORDING:** September 03: [Connecting with School District Leaders Webinar Recording](#)
- [CDPHE Safer at Home Webpage: Child Care Facilities](#)