VDH FLOWCHART FOR K-12 AND CHILD CARE PARENTS: WHAT TO DO IF MY CHILD IS ILL OR EXPOSED TO COVID-19?

COVID-19 vaccination status?

Up to date with vaccines* OR recovered from COVID-19 in past 6 months

Has COVID-19 symptoms?

NO

No symptoms, but has positive test

NO

Had known exposure to COVID-19 (close contact)?

YES

Isolate at home for 5 days and follow other advice.† Child may return to school on Day 6 if symptoms improve and no fever. Wear a mask on Days 6-10.

NO

No quarantine.§ Return to school.

YES

Positive test or not tested

Test for COVID-19 if possible

NO

Has COVID-19 symptoms?

NO

No symptoms, but has positive test

NO

Had known exposure to COVID-19 (close contact)?

YES

Consult healthcare provider and manage based on diagnosis.

NO

Return to school.

YES

Participate in Test to Stay if available and pending parental consent. Alternative is quarantine at home for 5 days and follow other advice. Child may return to school on Day 6.§ Wear a mask on Days 6-10.

CHILD

NOT up to date with vaccines*

Test for COVID-19 if possible

No symptoms, but has positive test

Yes

Isolate at home for 5 days

NO

Had known exposure to COVID-19 (close contact)?

NO

Return to school.

YES

Consult healthcare provider and manage based on diagnosis.

NO

Has COVID-19 symptoms?

†Isolate means stay at home and away from others for at least 5 days after symptoms start (or positive test if no symptoms). Wear a mask when around others for a full 10 days. Day 0 is the date of symptom onset or positive test (if no symptoms). Children under 2 years of age and those who cannot wear a mask should isolate at home for the full 10 days.

§Quarantine means stay at home and away from others for at least 5 days after exposure to someone with COVID-19. Day 0 is the date of last exposure. Children under 2 years of age and those who cannot wear a mask should quarantine at home for the full 10 days.

*Up to date with vaccines means a person has received all doses in the primary series and all recommended boosters, when eligible. VDH generally recommends quarantine for anyone who is not up-to-date if they come into close contact with a person who is infectious with COVID-19. However, to minimize disruption to in-person learning, students ages 5-11 years who completed their COVID-19 primary vaccine series but have not yet received a booster can forgo quarantine at this time. However, starting with the beginning of the 2022-2023 academic school year, all students should follow general VDH Quarantine Guidance, and should quarantine if they are not up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines (including booster doses, when eligible).

KEY POINTS: Regardless of vaccination status, any person with COVID-19 symptoms should be tested (if possible). If testing is not done or if the test is positive, the person should isolate at home and follow other recommendations. Children who are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines or who have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 6 months do not need to quarantine (stay home) after close contact exposure.
SUMMARY OF RECENT CHANGES

6/14/22: Removed recommendation that even if quarantine is not required, testing is recommended on Day 5, and that masks should be worn around others for a full 10 days.

6/10/22: Multiple updates made:

- Added links to CDC Guidance for definition of “up to date” with COVID-19 vaccinations; updated footnote to reflect this. Removed “not vaccinated.”
- Removed guidance that students ages 12-17 years who completed their COVID-19 primary vaccine series but have not yet received a booster can forgo quarantine. Included guidance that students ages 5-11 who have received the primary series but not a booster dose may forgo quarantine at this time, until the start of the 2022-2023 academic school year.
- Updated time frame of recovery from COVID-19 infection from 3 months to 6 months; those who have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 6 months are not required to quarantine after a close contact exposure to an individual with COVID-19.
- Updated “COVID-19 Symptoms” to link to CDC’s guidance on symptoms of COVID-19.
- Added guidance that children <2 years of age and those cannot mask should quarantine or isolate at home for the full day 10 period.

4/14/22: Design was updated but no changes were made to the content.

2/1/22: Updated title of document to include child care facilities in alignment with CDC’s updated isolation and quarantine guidance for child care facilities. Added links to the CDC mask page for additional information on masking ages (2 and up).