Child Care & Schools With a Person With COVID-19: Who Can Attend?

Does the child care or school need to close?

- Not necessarily. If the center or school is able to remove everyone from areas that need to be cleaned, the center or school may clean without closing.

- Some children, students and staff with potential exposure may be asked to temporarily not attend while the center or school works with public health to determine who had close contact with the person with the positive test. This might mean quarantining a full classroom or more than one classroom if children or students mixed.

Who will be notified that they were exposed?

People who were identified as close contacts of the person who tested positive. Public Health will work with the center or school to notify these individuals/their families. People who do not receive a phone call or letter from the school or center or public health did not have close contact.

Should we notify Public Health that someone tested positive?

Child care providers in Dane County should report employees and children with a positive COVID-19 test to Public Health either by completing this survey online or by calling (608) 266-4821 and ask for the Communicable Disease Nurse on-call.

After business hours, leave a message. Messages left after business hours or during the weekend will be returned the next business day. Schools in Dane County should reference the school action plan to report a positive case.

Who cannot come to the child care center or school after someone is diagnosed with COVID-19?

- Some children, students and staff who had close contact with the person who tested positive will need to quarantine (see next page). This may be different for different people depending on when they attended or last worked with the person who tested positive and their vaccination status.

- A close contact cannot come back early even if they have a negative test during their quarantine period.

When can someone who had a positive test return?

- People with a positive test can return when they have been fever-free for 24 hours, their other symptoms have improved, and it has been at least 5 days since their symptoms started. If someone cannot wear a mask, they can return after 10 days.

- People with a positive test do not need a negative test to return

Can siblings or caregivers of someone who tested positive come to the center or school?

Maybe, depending on if they are experiencing symptoms, vaccination status, and ability to wear a well-fitting mask.

See quarantine guidelines below.

Can caregivers and siblings of a close contact come to the center or school?

Yes, they were not exposed to someone with COVID-19 so they can still come.

What if my doctor tells me that I or my child can return before public health says it's OK?

The center or school should follow public health's guidance regarding who can be at the center or school after being diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. Health care providers may not have all of the information needed to provide accurate guidance.

If someone has a positive COVID-19 test, returns, and is exposed to someone else who has a positive test after they return, do they need to stay home after that exposure?

If their first positive viral test for COVID-19 was 90 days or less before the exposure, they do not need to stay home if they are exposed. If their test was more than 90 days before an exposure, they do have stay home.

If someone who never had a positive test gets exposed again, do they need to stay home again?

Yes, people who have close contact with someone with a positive test need to stay home each time they have an exposure unless they have had a positive test in the past if the are unvaccinated or not up to date on their vaccinations.

Quarantining for People without Symptoms

You can develop COVID-19 days after your last close contact with someone who has COVID-19. In order to prevent spreading COVID-19 to others, quarantine guidelines vary depending on vaccination status. Anyone who develops symptoms should be tested as soon as possible.

If you:	Can wear a mask	Cannot wear a mask
Are up to date on your COVID-19 vaccinations, including all booster doses recommended for you & either never had COVID-19 OR had COVID-19 more than 90 days ago	Do not need to quarantine, must wear a mask. Get tested on day 5 or later if possible.	Return 11 days after exposure. Get tested on day 5 or later if possible.
Are not up to date on your COVID-19 vaccinations & either never had COVID-19 OR had COVID-19 more than 90 days ago	Return 6 days after exposure with a mask. Get tested on day 5 or later if possible.	Return 11 days after exposure. Get tested on day 5 or later if possible.
Had COVID-19 in the last 90 days	Do not need to quarantine, must wear a mask.	Return 11 days after exposure.