



Office of the State Superintendent of Education

COVID-19 EXCLUSION AND DISMISSAL CRITERIA AND PROTOCOLS FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

A child, staff member, or essential visitor must stay home, or not be admitted, if they:

- Have had any of the following symptoms within the last 24 hours:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fever (subjective or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) or chills <input type="checkbox"/> Cough <input type="checkbox"/> Congestion or runny nose¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Headache <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle or body aches <input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell <input type="checkbox"/> Otherwise feeling unwell
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- Are confirmed to have COVID-19
- Have been in close contact in the last 10 days with an individual confirmed to have COVID-19²
- Are awaiting COVID-19 test results, or have a close contact who is awaiting COVID-19 test results
- Have traveled in the last 14 days to any place other than Maryland, Virginia, or a low-risk state, country, or territory, unless they received a negative COVID-19 PCR test after limiting daily activities for at least 3-5 days after returning from the travel

Does the child or staff member have a pre-existing health condition that presents with specific COVID-19 – like symptoms?

If a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19, then the individual may not be excluded from entering the facility on the basis of those specific symptoms.

Note: If excluded, the child’s parent/guardian, staff, and essential visitors should call their healthcare provider for further directions.

DISMISSAL CRITERIA

Child, Staff Member, or Essential Visitor Develops Fever or Signs of Illness at School

DISMISSAL PROTOCOL

For Children

1. Immediately isolate the child from other children.
 - If developmentally appropriate, the child should put on a non-medical (cloth) face covering or surgical mask, if not wearing already.
 - Identify a staff member to accompany the isolated child to the isolation area and supervise the child while awaiting pickup.
 - The staff member(s) briefly responding to the sick child in the classroom, accompanying the child to the isolation area, and supervising the child in the isolation area must comply with PPE requirements.
2. Notify the child’s parent/guardian of the symptoms and that the child needs to be picked up as soon as possible.
 - Instruct the parent/guardian to seek healthcare provider guidance.
3. Immediately follow cleaning and disinfecting procedures for any area and materials with which the child was in contact.³

For Staff and Essential Visitors

1. Send the staff member or essential visitor home immediately, or isolate until it is safe to go home.
2. Instruct the staff member or essential visitor to seek healthcare provider guidance.
3. Follow cleaning and disinfecting procedures for any area, toys, and equipment with which the staff member or essential visitor was in contact.³

Endnotes

- 1 If the runny nose is circumstantial (e.g., after playing outdoors in cold weather) and temporary (subsides within 30 minutes), and the individual is not experiencing other COVID-19 symptoms nor other criteria for exclusion, then the individual does not need to be excluded.
- 2 DC Health strongly recommends that individuals who live or work with someone at higher-risk for COVID-19 quarantine for 14 days.
- 3 See Section H. Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sanitization of the Health and Safety Guidance for Child Care Providers: COVID-19 Recovery Period for detailed protocols.