



Office of the State Superintendent of Education

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

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

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

- Are experiencing any of the following symptoms of COVID-19:

<input type="checkbox"/> Fever (measured at 100.4° Fahrenheit or greater, or subjective)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat	<input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue	<input type="checkbox"/> Chills
<input type="checkbox"/> Cough	<input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	<input type="checkbox"/> Headache	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor appetite or poor feeding
<input type="checkbox"/> Congestion or runny nose ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea	<input type="checkbox"/> Muscle or body aches	<input type="checkbox"/> Abdominal pain
	<input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or vomiting	<input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell	
- Are confirmed to have COVID-19
- Have been in close contact in the last 10 days with an individual confirmed to have COVID-19
- Are awaiting COVID-19 test results after symptoms of COVID-19

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

- Have a symptomatic household member who is awaiting COVID-19 test results
- Have traveled in the last 10 days to any place other than Maryland or Virginia, unless they did not attend child care for 7 days, got tested for COVID-19 3-5 days after returning to DC, AND received a negative COVID-19 viral test

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 must not be excluded from entering the school building on the basis of those specific symptoms.

Note: If excluded, children (or their parent/guardian), staff, and essential visitors should call their healthcare provider for further directions.

*See page 2 of this document for exceptions for individuals who are fully vaccinated or who have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

DISMISSAL CRITERIA

Child, Staff Member, or Essential Visitor Develops Symptoms of COVID-19 (as listed in the Exclusion Criteria section above) while at Child Care

DISMISSAL PROTOCOL

For Children

1. Immediately isolate the child from other children.
 - The child should immediately put on a face mask 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 should comply with PPE best practices.
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. Follow cleaning and disinfecting procedures for any area and materials with which the child was in contact.²

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.²

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 See DC Health's Guidance on Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities, available at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance, for more information.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Individuals who have Recently Recovered from COVID-19

Provided that they do not currently have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days may be admitted in the following circumstances:

1. While awaiting COVID-19 test results,
2. After close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19,
3. When a household contact is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or
4. After travel.

Any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should follow the exclusion criteria outlined in this resource.

Individuals who are Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19

Provided that they do not currently have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, an individual who is **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 may be admitted in the following circumstances:

1. While awaiting COVID-19 test results,
2. After close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19,
3. When a household contact is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or
4. After travel.

A person is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after completion of a COVID-19 vaccination series (after the second dose of a 2-dose series, or after one dose of a single-dose vaccine).

Any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should follow the exclusion criteria outlined in this resource.

SEE ALSO OSSE'S RETURN TO CHILD CARE CRITERIA RESOURCE
AVAILABLE ON THE [OSSE WEBSITE](#).