Note: These scenarios include standard criteria to return to care for children and staff. Individual guidance from DC Health or a healthcare provider would always supersede these criteria.

Scenario 1: Child or Staff Member with COVID-19 Symptoms

COVID-19 Symptoms

Recommend the individual seek healthcare guidance to determine if COVID-19 testing is indicated

Individual is tested
Note: Individuals must quarantine while awaiting test results

If positive: see Scenario #2
If negative: see Scenario #3

If the individual does not complete test
Submit documentation from a healthcare provider of an alternate diagnosis, and meet standard criteria to return after illness

Meet symptom-based criteria to return:
(1) At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved; AND
(2) At least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared, whichever is later

Return to child care

Scenario 2: Child or Staff Member with a Positive COVID-19 Test Result

Positive COVID-19 Test Result (Antigen or PCR)

If symptomatic
(1) At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved; AND
(2) At least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared, whichever is later

If asymptomatic
10 days from positive test

Return to child care
Scenario 3: Child or Staff Member with a Negative COVID-19 Test Result After Symptoms of COVID-19

If negative PCR: see PCR Test portion of this scenario

Confirm negative result with PCR test
Note: Individual must quarantine while awaiting PCR test results

If negative PCR: see PCR Test portion of this scenario
If positive PCR: see Scenario #2

Negative COVID-19 Test Result After Symptoms of COVID-19

PCR Test

Meet standard criteria to return after illness
Return to child care

Scenario 4: Child or Staff Member with Documentation from Healthcare Provider of Alternate Diagnosis After Symptoms of COVID-19

Documentation from Healthcare Provider of Alternate Diagnosis After Symptoms of COVID-19

Meet standard criteria to return after illness
Return to child care

Scenario 5: Child or Staff Member is a Close Contact of an Individual with Confirmed COVID-19

Close Contact of Individual with Confirmed COVID-19

If able to isolate from COVID-19 positive individual

A minimum of 10 days from last exposure to COVID-19 positive individual, or as instructed by DC Health

Return to child care

If unable to isolate from COVID-19 positive individual

A minimum of 10 days from the end of the COVID-19 positive individual’s infectious period (See Scenario #2), or as instructed by DC Health

Return to child care
Scenario 6: Child or Staff Member is a Close Contact of an Individual Awaiting a COVID-19 Test Result

- Close Contact of an Individual Awaiting a COVID-19 Test Result
  - Close contact tests positive
    - See Scenario #5
  - Close contact tests negative
    - Student or staff member has no symptoms of COVID-19 nor other exclusionary criteria met
      - Return to child care

Scenario 7: Child or Staff Member Traveled to Any Place Other than Maryland, Virginia, or a Low-Risk State, Country, or Territory

- Travel to Any Place Other than Maryland, Virginia, or a Low-Risk State, Country, or Territory
  - Self-monitor and limit daily activities—including not attending child care—for 14 days
  - Self-monitor and limit daily activities—including not attending child care—until tested for COVID-19 (within 3-5 days after return) AND Receive a negative test result
    - Return to child care

Endnotes
1. Children or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19–like symptoms may not be excluded from entering the facility on the basis of those specific symptoms, if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19.
2. Standard criteria to return after illness refers to the individual facility’s existing policies and protocols for a child or employee to return to child care after illness.
4. Regardless of whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, close contacts (including all members of the household) must quarantine for at least 10 days.
5. Some individuals, including those with severe illness, may have longer quarantine periods per DC Health or their healthcare provider.
6. Per Scenario #5, a negative test result after close contact with an individual with confirmed COVID-19 does not shorten the duration of quarantine of at least 10 days.
7. DC Health strongly recommends that individuals who live or work with someone at higher-risk for COVID-19 quarantine for 14 days. See DC Health’s Guidance for Quarantine after COVID-19 Exposure on coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance for more information.