

# WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR CHILD CARE PROVIDER DURING SPRING 2022



In spring 2022, DC Health, the District's public health authority, updated its health and safety guidance for educational facilities (including schools, child development facilities and higher education institutions) to align prevention measures to coronavirus (COVID-19) [community transmission levels](#). The update aligns child care guidance with other educational settings and provides more flexibility, particularly when transmission levels are LOW or MEDIUM. These are some changes you may see at your child's facility.



## SHORTER ISOLATION PERIODS<sup>1</sup>

- Individuals age 2 and older may now return to care on day 6 if they receive a negative test result on day 5. The individual must wear a well-fitting mask through day 10.



## SHORTER QUARANTINE PERIODS<sup>2</sup>

- Individuals age 2 and older may now return to care on day 6 if they receive a negative test result on day 5. The individual should wear a well-fitting mask through day 10.



## NO RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL

- Families are no longer required to quarantine following travel.
- Facilities have the flexibility to enforce their own travel restrictions or requirements



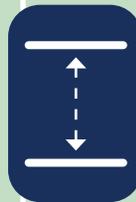
## CONTINUED CLEANLINESS

- Child development facilities will continue to practice routine cleaning and disinfection, as well as promote healthy habits like frequent handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes.



## SMILING FACES

- Most people no longer need to wear masks indoors or outdoors at child development facilities.
- Facilities have the flexibility to issue their own mask requirements and individuals may choose to continue wearing masks if their facility does not require them.
- Some children and adults must continue to wear masks in certain situations, such as those returning to care early on days 6-10 after isolation.
- Child development facilities should continue to support staff and children in wearing masks if they are required or choose to do so.



## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- People who are unvaccinated or not up to date on their vaccines, immunocompromised, or at high-risk for severe COVID-19 should continue to practice physical distancing when indoors to the extent feasible.
- Physical distancing is not required or feasible when comforting, changing or feeding or carrying out other activities necessary to care for young children and should not interfere with opportunities for children to engage in normal play activities.



## EXPANDED TESTING OPTIONS

- Antigen tests may now be used to return to care.

Child development facilities may choose to continue to require COVID-19 mitigation strategies, such as masks or travel restrictions, in response to the needs and comfort of their communities. Families are encouraged to talk with their child development facility about expectations for their child's specific program.

1 The term isolation is used when someone has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 and must separate themselves from others.  
2 The term quarantine is used when someone is identified as a close contact after exposure to COVID-19 and they must separate themselves from others.