

COVID EXPOSURE: What do we do?

Let's Break It Down

All policies are gathered from DCFS, IDPH and CDC.
This is an everchanging situation so all policies below are subject to change.

Last Updated: Nov 3, 2020

In most cases, Siblings & Co. is not determining when a child can return or if they can attend or not attend. Any and all situations below are determined by the Health Department, so please keep that in mind as you go through.

I. Family Member Tests Positive

If a family member tests positive: The Health Dept. will advise the household to quarantine. Contact your director asap. If a child is required to quarantine because of a positive in the household, tuition will not be due until the quarantine is over or a max of 10 business days. Whichever comes first. We will need proof of a positive test to grant the tuition being waived.

New info: A positive in the household can require a longer quarantine for those in the household who do not get tested or test positive. The non-positives will have to complete the positive person's quarantine and then will have to start their own 14-day quarantine afterwards. The only way to avoid the extended quarantine is isolate from the positive immediately and then the 14-day close contact quarantine can begin right away. Close contact quarantines are determined by the last time you were around the positive.

We will need documentation from the health department stating the child is free of quarantine and can return.

II. Child Enrolled Tests Positive

Inform the center asap so we can alert other families and IDPH for further guidance. If the child or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, he or she is not to return to the child care facility until ALL four of the following are met:

- Individual is free from fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for at least 72 hours.
- Individual's symptoms, including cough, have improved.
- It has been at least 10 days since the onset of the individual's illness.
- Clearance from the health department stating quarantine has ended.

It is possible that a positive case will also close the room for an amount of time determined by the Health Department. Tuition for the positive child will not be due until they have been cleared from the Health Dept. We will need proof of positive to waive the tuition. Tuition for the children in the room affected will also be waived for the amount of time the Health Dept dictates.

New info: The Health Department will determine room closures if the positive case was in contact with the class at least 48 hours before symptoms began. The length of room closure is determined by the date of last contact with the positive and when the positive person's symptoms began.

III. Symptomatic

If the child or staff member has symptoms of COVID-19 and it is subsequently determined by a medical provider that the individual likely does not have a COVID-19 infection, the child or staff member can return to the center if the following is met:

- No fever for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications (fever is temperature greater than 100.4F/37C)
- Provide a Negative test for COVID-19 or;
- A note from a medical provider documenting no clinical suspicion of COVID-19 infection
Regular tuition applies unless they test positive and then refer to #2. The director may send a child home at their discretion due to a possible illness.

IV. Family Member/Child Awaiting a Test Result

The doctor or Health Dept. will advise the family to stay home until results are given. Let your director know the situation and regular tuition will be due, but if it is determined that the test is positive, the pro-rated tuition amount will be credited for when the child returns.

V. Close Contact

If a child or staff had **close contact** with someone who tested positive:

*This is if the **child** or **staff** had close contact with someone who is POSITIVE, not if they have symptoms OR if a family member had close contact.

Contact the Health Department for Advisement. If they determine quarantine is needed for the child, we cannot ask for a non-Siblings family to provide proof of a positive test, so there will be a reduction in tuition but not full waiver. If the Health Department advised the child to quarantine, we will need documentation and the first 5 business days is 50% tuition. The next 5 business days will be regular tuition but returning is up to the health department.

Exception: If a child is quarantined due to someone in the household being positive, their tuition will be waived until the child is cleared from the Health Dept.

From CDC and IDPH: continue on next page.

Who needs to quarantine?

Anyone who has been in **close contact** with someone who has COVID-19.

This includes people who previously had COVID-19 and people who have taken a serologic (antibody) test and have antibodies to the virus.

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Steps to take

Stay home and monitor your health

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- If possible, stay away others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

EX 1: The mother of the household had close contact with someone who tested positive. The children will still be able to attend even though the mother had close contact but this will be up to the Health Department. If the mother starts to develop symptoms, refer to # III.

EX 2: The family was at a birthday party and the child had close contact to someone who ended up testing positive. The child will most likely be advised per Health Dept. to quarantine.

VI. Classroom Closure:

If a classroom is closed due to Health Dept. guidance because of a positive case in the room, tuition will not be required during the time of closure. Once we are allowed to be back, tuition will resume. We will only post a Covid-19 positive if it is a child in care or a staff member, not if it is a family member and as always, names will not be included.

VII. Travel

We have not been given any guidelines on travel and if families/staff are allowed to return after traveling. Until we are given further instruction, there is not a required quarantine upon return. However, we do appreciate you taking the necessary precautions like watching for symptoms, possible testing before return, etc. but at this point, we cannot mandate it.

VIII. Tuition Due

As you all know, tuition is the same each week throughout the year even if a child is not present due to illness. During this situation, we feel like the tuition reductions given are beneficial to all families enrolled to ensure isolation guidance is being followed if needed.

If the situation arises where a family must quarantine in the middle of the week or can return in the middle of the week, tuition will be prorated for the days in care. The prorate will be weekly tuition divided by 5 for a daily rate.

IX. Communication

From what we know, everyone has been forthcoming and we ask that you continue to do that. If you have been exposed, let us know what the health department has advised. If you start feeling ill, please plan for alternate drop off or pick up.

We will alert families of any positive cases in children or staff in attendance. This will be posted in the building like other illnesses but we will also send out a message on Himama.

X. Documentation

We understand that documentation on return dates and test results can be delayed through this. Please call your director if you are running into gathering documentation.

Health Dept # During Business Hours: 594-2723

Health Department COVID Hotline (After Business Hours) 833-217-9525

Directors: Notify Crystal at DCFS by phone and IDPH at 1-800-889-3931 immediately upon being informed of licensee, staff or child exposure to COVID-19 and follow-up in writing to local DCFS licensing office.

Q and A:

Q: As a parent, if my family comes in close contact, can I have my family tested, produce proof of a negative test for everyone in my household & come back immediately?

A: That would be up to the Health Department advisement.

Q: Will the classroom be informed of a potential case prior to a negative test? Other children/teacher may need/want to take precaution and stay home until they know.

A: This will be case by case. If we are aware the someone is symptomatic and getting tested, we will ask the family if we can alert the class but it may not always happen. Legally, we will only be notifying families if there is a positive case that was in the classroom 48 hours before showing symptoms. We will continue to post any communicable diseases as well. However, the COVID amendment to the illness report states that a child must be fever free for 72 hours before returning or 24 hours fever free with a doctor's note.

Q: Allergies and the flu share similar symptoms of covid19, does the child need a doctor's note or a negative covid test?

A: If a child is showing the following symptoms, the child may return when the criteria of Number 3 are met.

Possible Symptoms: Fever (temperature greater than 100.4F), chills, sore throat, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headache, vomiting and diarrhea.

Q: Do staff follow these same guidelines?

A: Yes.

Q: If a room is closed with our child in that room and they have a sibling in a different room, will both children need to be quarantined or just that child from the affected room?

A: It's our understanding that only the positive room will be closed. However, it would be up to the Health Department if they advised the sibling to quarantine as well. From our experience, the sibling can attend as long as the quarantined child is not showing symptoms.

COVID EXPOSURE: What do we do?

I, _____ have read and understand the I am being asked to do my part in keeping our program as safe as possible by being forthcoming about any exposure.

I understand that by withholding exposure information, I could be jeopardizing my enrollment at Siblings and Company.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

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