

CHILD CARE FORUM FAQ – UPDATED

JANUARY 21, 2022

YOLO COUNTY

GENERAL

1. What population is considered child care?

- a. Sites serving children under 5 or providing before and after school care for school aged children.
- b. For the purpose of COVID Investigations preschool and daycares are grouped into the same category 'Child care'.

2. What guidance is my site required to follow regarding COVID reporting and mitigation?

- a. Sites co-located on a K-12 sites and/or sites administered by a school district should follow the [CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) and corresponding [K-12 Schools Guidance 2021-2022 Questions and Answers](#). Note: Site **must** adhere to masking and staff vaccination requirements of K-12 settings.
- b. Sites serving children under 5 and/or sites serving school-age children **not** co-located on the site or a K-12 site or administered by a local school district must follow the [CDPH Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs](#).

The questions and answers below are for child care settings that are **not** co-located on a K-12 campus.

VACCINATION

3. What are the current Immunization recommendations?

- Children over 5, all teens, and all adults can get a COVID vaccine:

Authorized for	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	J&J/Janssen
4 years and under	No	No	No
5-11 years old	Yes	No	No
12-17 years old	Yes + booster	No	No
18 years and older	Yes + booster	Yes + booster	Yes + booster

You are up-to-date on your vaccine if a) you are 18+ and have been boosted OR completed the primary (2 dose) series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 5 months OR completed the primary (1 dose) series of J&J vaccine within the last two months; or b) you are 12-17 and have completed a primary series of Pfizer.

- 4. If we have a symptomatic, vaccinated child who has a parent that works for us, who is also vaccinated, do we have to exclude the parent from work?**

- a. Employees who are up-to-date¹ with vaccination do not need to quarantine from work after an exposure. They should get tested after their exposure and wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- b. Employees who are fully vaccinated but not up-to-date with vaccination can continue to work but must follow testing and masking requirements and must quarantine when not at work. See [COVID Exposure Decision Tree Excluding Healthcare and Schools](#).

MASKING

5. Does masking and being outside affect the definition of close contact?

Masking and indoor/outdoor setting do not determine who is a close contact (See [COVID Exposure Decision Tree Excluding Healthcare and Schools](#)). However, it's easier for people to catch COVID when indoors, especially when indoors and unmasked, which is why masking is important.

6. We have had children in our care who are congested with a runny nose and struggle keeping their mask on due to it getting wet and making it hard to breathe. These children have a negative COVID test however still struggle to keep their mask on. What can we do?

We encourage you to have extra masks on hand so if one gets wet, or is damaged, it can be replaced. You may also request that parents bring back-up masks so that wet masks can be changed out.

7. When you say the child can return to school if they are able to remain masked at all times, does that include time spent outdoors? Also how do we have them drink water and eat?

- Masks outdoors are recommended due to the current record high case rate, but are not required.
- Eating and drinking should be done outdoors, when possible. Where this is not possible, please use HEPA filters and/or improve air circulation during mealtime.
- For COVID-positive: Children who cannot mask must complete the full 10 days of isolation, rather than returning on day 6.

For Preschool/child care that have moved operations mostly outdoors, what is the masking recommendation? Is there a timeline for when mask use can be discontinued outdoors?

- Current CDPH [Masking Guidance](#) does not require masking outdoors, however masking is recommended when outdoors.

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

8. Were there any recent updates regarding isolation and quarantine guidance?

The most up-to-date Yolo County Isolation and Quarantine requirements are posted on the [Yolo County website](#).

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9. Which guidance should child care facilities be following with regard to isolation and quarantine guidelines?

Child care should follow [isolation and quarantine guidance](#) for the general public.

10. As a child care program co-located on K-12 campuses, will I be able to find the updated K-12 guidance on the website?

Please refer to [CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) and [Yolo County COVID-19 K-12 Information](#).

11. Since infants are not eligible for vaccines and cannot mask, how long should they quarantine and isolate?

Children under 2 are not able to wear masks and therefore are not eligible for a 5-day quarantine or isolation since they cannot mask for days 6-10. Infants must complete 10 days of quarantine (if exposed) or isolation (if COVID-positive). This also applies to older children or children with special needs who cannot or do not wear masks

12. How long are we going to be following the guidance regarding closures?

Yolo County Health Department does not routinely recommend the closure of child care facilities. Child care facilities may make the business decision to close when a large number of staff and children have been exposed. We recommend you strongly enforce all recommended mitigation measures (masking, ventilation, pre-entry screening, exclusion of symptomatic individuals) to limit the risk of transmission.

13. How are child care providers going to survive the dynamic that finds parents losing their spirit of cooperation due to being reprimanded/fired from their jobs, resulting in financial hardship and resulting in an inability to pay for child care services, AND/OR that forces providers to pay staff during closures to be in compliance with Cal/OSHA?

We want to acknowledge the challenges experienced by providers and parents during this pandemic. Our COVID Infection Control program is continually reviewing COVID requirements to balance reducing COVID transmission, particularly among young children who aren't yet eligible for vaccination and the people who care for them, with child care facilities' financial and operational realities, as well as parents' need for reliable child care.

14. After a child tests positive, when can they return?

- Day 0: Symptoms begin or positive test collected (e.g., Sept 1)
- Day 1: Isolate (e.g., Sept 2)
- Day 2: Isolate (e.g., Sept 3)
- Day 3: Isolate (e.g., Sept 4)
- Day 4: Isolate (e.g., Sept 5)
- Day 5: Isolate and antigen test (e.g., Sept 6)
- Day 6: If antigen test negative, symptoms have improved, fever has been gone for at least 24 hours, and the person can mask: return to child care, wear mask around others until Day 10. If positive, symptoms persist, OR person is unable to mask: continue to isolate until Day 10 and symptoms have improved and fever has been gone for at least 24 hours.

15. If a child returns from vacation, can they return back to school immediately or should they quarantine and then test before returning to preschool?

Persons returning from out-of-state travel should follow [CDC Travel Guidelines](#). Unvaccinated returning travelers should be tested and quarantine.

16. If children are more than 6 feet apart while napping does that change the possibility of shortening the quarantine?

Persons physically distanced more than 6 feet apart do not meet criteria for close contact, however, there is still some risk of transmission because masks aren't being worn. Because the virus can travel more than 6 feet and the dominant variant, Omicron, is highly transmissible, we want to consider the amount of time that children were napping more than six feet apart. If you are facing this scenario, please reach out to us at Yolo County for more tailored guidance.

17. Is there any indication that the start date of exposure is different for Omicron?

Omicron has a shorter incubation period than other variants. However, we still consider a person's infectious period to begin 2 days before symptoms started or they tested positive. To determine who needs to quarantine, we still ask that you determine who the person was in close contact with the 2 days before their symptoms began/tested positive.

18. Can sites with nap time (when children cannot wear masks) able to follow modified quarantine?

Only sites that are co-located on K-12 campuses or are operated by the School District are eligible to follow the 'COVID -19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in CA, 2021-2022 School year' which includes a provision for modified quarantine. For sites that are co-located on a K-12 campus: by virtue of masks not being worn at time of exposure, children exposed during nap-time are not eligible for modified quarantine and must complete a 'standard' quarantine in which they are excluded from the site for 10 days.

TESTING

19. What types of tests is Yolo County accepting?

- a. Children may use Antigen (including home antigen tests) or PCR Testing. For persons with COVID who want to test at Day 5, antigen tests are recommended. Test sites in Yolo County can be found on [our website](#).
- b. Staff must adhere to Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) to determine which tests and collection requirements are applicable.

20. What documentation is required to substantiate a home test for release from Isolation or Quarantine?

People should take a picture of the test, with their name and the date written on it, and provide a self-attestation. You can also request that parents provide a self-attestation letter along with the photo of the test. A template can be found on the Yolo County website soon. Child care providers should review the photo of the test and attestation.

21. Is it recommended that we require routine weekly (or more) testing for the children in our care?

We recommend weekly testing, but we know that due to testing availability not all sites may be able to provide weekly testing for their children and staff.

22. Where can we get test kits?

Currently Antigen test kits are in short supply. We encourage staff and participants to use community testing sites or by purchase over the counter tests (when available).

Additionally, Yolo County has a limited supply of home antigen tests that we are distributing to persons who have tested positive in the last 7 days and need a test to shorten their isolation period to less than 10 days at pop-up, drive-through distribution sites. For information on these distributions, please visit [our website](#).

Child care centers that have not yet signed up for ongoing testing with CDPH should do this as well. Information on how to sign up can be found on the [CDPH website](#).

23. Can infants be tested using home test kits?

Yes, home test kits can be used to test infants if the manufacturer's instructions can be followed.

Please remember that infants cannot shorten their isolation or quarantine period with testing, since they are not able to mask on Days 6-10.

24. What are the recommendations for exclusion of a symptomatic child with a positive family member in the home?

Scenarios for determining isolation and quarantine as well as exclusion of symptomatic students can be found in the Yolo County Child care Safety Plan. This instance is explained in Scenario 3.

25. What should we do with students who are continuously symptomatic or history of conditions with symptoms similar to COVID (e.g., runny nose) and no known exposure to COVID-19?

This scenario is detailed in Scenario 2 of the Child care Safety Plan. We recommend repeat or serial testing if symptoms persist or worsen. Testing is especially important if the child has a known exposure to someone positive for COVID-19.

REPORTING

26. Do we need to report cases if the child or staff were not on site?

No, only report exposures if the positive individual was on site and around others at your facility in the 2 days prior to their symptom onset or positive test, or was on site between testing and receiving the positive test result.

27. Do child care facilities need to report if a household member to a child in our care tests positive?

No, however the child must be placed on quarantine as outlined in Scenario 3 of the Child care Safety Plan.


28. What should we do if we are having difficulty communicating with our SPOT assigned liaison?

The Yolo County Schools and Child care COVID Investigation Team is committed to partnership and support of our community partners. If you are experiencing delays or barriers in communication with your COVID liaison, please do not hesitate to escalate your inquiry by calling the COVID Schools and Child care Hotline at (530) 902-1119.

Please note we are currently experiencing an unprecedented surge, please allow up to 2 hours (during working hours) for your assigned specialist to acknowledge your inquiry. And up to 24 hours for response for more complex inquiries.

29. How to we report COVID Exposures for Child care Settings?

Onsite exposures in a child care setting must be reported via a SPOT Intake form found at <https://spot.cdph.ca.gov/s/IntakeForm>.

From the drop down choose 'Yolo' and then select 'Report a School Exposure' and the next button and complete all fields marked with a red asterisk (*), utilize the information dots  next to the field labels in the Exposure Information section to obtain information to inform what information should be included in the fields. Please, refrain from including patient information in the notes field. We encourage you to report the information about the positive case by selecting 'Yes, I am ready to provide this information' above the 'I am not a Robot' reCAPTCHA selecting this option which will open an additional form field that allows a selection to 'Report a Case' to begin the reporting of the case information (all fields marked with a red asterisk (*) in the case form are required.)

30. What can I expect once I report a COVID Exposure at my site?

When you submit your SPOT Intake form you will receive an autoresponder with tips for preparing for your site investigation. Once we process your form (please allow 24 –48 hours), you will receive a follow up email with the Exposure Event number and instructions for next steps regarding reporting close contacts for your exposure AND your assigned site Investigator will reach out to you to provide further guidance.