

What This Means for Schools

Effective Feb. 23:

- IDOH no longer recommends contact tracing and quarantining in schools; LHDs in conjunction with their schools may elect to continue.
- If schools are made aware of a positive case, sharing the potential exposure with students/families can emphasize the importance of observation for symptoms associated with COVID-19
- Schools do not need to report any COVID-19 case information to IDOH, school dashboard will be discontinued
- Schools should continue to isolate positive individuals for at least 5 days per CDC
- Schools should continue to assist their LHD with exposure notification when there is a cluster of positive COVID-19 cases or an outbreak. Schools should notify their LHD when absenteeism reaches 10 percent for COVID-like illness or when schools are concerned about the level of illness.
- A negative test or doctor's note is no longer required to return to school. As with other illnesses, students should not return to school unless they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and their symptoms are resolving.

K-12 Isolation Guidance

If an individual tests positive:

- Should stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the date of the day of the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons)
- People who are in isolation may return to school on day 6 as long as fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and symptoms have improved
- They should wear a mask when around others at home, in public and at school for an additional 5 days (days 6-10)
- People who are confirmed to have COVID-19 regardless of their vaccination status or symptoms should isolate.

What to do if a Child Tests Positive in Early Child Care



Children 5 and older:

- Children testing positive for COVID-19 should isolate at home for 5 days and may return on day 6 if fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and show improvement in symptoms
- Children should mask days 6-10 upon returning

What to do if a Child Tests Positive in Early Child Care



Children 2 (24 months) to 5 years of age:

- Children testing positive for COVID-19 should isolate at home for 5 days
- Children who are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and show improvement in symptoms may return on day 6 if they can correctly and consistently mask
- Children who cannot correctly and consistently mask should isolate at home for 7 days and may return on day 8
- The decision to return should be made by the child's parent and in conjunction with the childcare program. Families are their children's best and first teachers and as such know the capabilities of their child.

What happens for children exposed to COVID-19?



- Children exposed to COVID-19, but without symptoms, no longer need to quarantine
- Childcare program should still notify families if a child or teacher tests positive in their child's cohort. This notification will allow families to be diligent in looking for symptoms such as fever, cough, nasal congestion, etc., indicating that the child should stay home.