Symptomatic Child while in Child Care
Decision Guide for Child Care Providers

Valid as of October 5, 2021

CHILD becomes ill in child care

Was the child with symptoms tested?

YES

Child with symptom(s) and household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated stay isolated at home.

Child and other household contacts* picked up at child care. Child and household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated self-isolate at home.

Staff supervising child uses appropriate Personal Protective Equipment

RESULT received

Positive

Child with positive test result and household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated stay isolated at home.

Household contacts who are symptom-free can end their self-isolation and the child may return to child care 24 hours after symptoms have improved** OR 48 hours after vomiting or diarrhea have resolved.

OR

Negative

If a child with one or more of the other symptom(s) of COVID-19 was tested, child with symptom(s) and household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated stay home and isolate until the result is received.

CONTACT your child's health care provider for further advice. Household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated must continue self-isolation.

A physician or nurse practitioner concludes the symptoms are not from COVID-19 and provides an alternative diagnosis AND symptoms have been improving for 24 hours**; OR 48 hours after vomiting or diarrhea have resolved. Household contacts who are symptom-free can end their self-isolation when the alternative diagnosis by a physician or nurse practitioner is received.

OR

Child presenting with one or more of the other symptoms*** of COVID-19.

Child is presenting with one or more of the most common**** symptoms of COVID-19.

If a child with one or more of the other symptom(s) of COVID-19 was tested, child with symptom(s) and household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated stay home and isolate until the result is received.

OR

Child with symptom(s) must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days and symptoms must be improving** for 24 hrs OR resolved for 48 hrs for vomiting or diarrhea before returning. Household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days. The 10-day isolation period of household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated begins after they are able to break contact with the symptomatic child.***

Clean and disinfect separated area and items the child handled.

Child with positive test result and household contacts* remain in isolation and follows OPH guidance.

Child with symptom(s) must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days and symptoms must be improving** for 24 hrs OR resolved for 48 hrs for vomiting or diarrhea before returning. Household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated remain in isolation and follows OPH guidance.

Household contacts (including siblings) who do not have any symptoms (COVID-19 or other symptoms) do not need to isolate and can leave the home (vaccination status is not applicable).

Negative

Result received

Positive

Household contacts who are symptom-free can end their self-isolation and the child may return to child 24 hours after symptoms have improved**.

Child care provider calls parent/guardian to pick up child.

OR

Negative

The 10-day isolation period of household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated begins after they are able to break contact with the symptomatic child.***

Child is picked up at child care and sent home to isolate.

Child with symptom(s) and household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated stay isolated at home.

A physician or nurse practitioner concludes the symptoms are not from COVID-19 and provides an alternative diagnosis AND symptoms have been improving for 24 hours**; OR 48 hours after vomiting or diarrhea have resolved. Household contacts who are symptom-free can end their self-isolation when the alternative diagnosis by a physician or nurse practitioner is received.

Household contacts who are symptom-free can end their self-isolation and the child may return to child 24 hours after symptoms have improved**.

OR

If a child with one or more of the other symptom(s) of COVID-19 was tested, child with symptom(s) and household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated stay home and isolate until the result is received.

Result received

Positive

Child presenting with one or more of the other symptoms*** of COVID-19.

Child is presenting with one or more of the most common**** symptoms of COVID-19.

If a child with one or more of the other symptom(s) of COVID-19 was tested, child with symptom(s) and household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated stay home and isolate until the result is received.

OR

Negative

Result received
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**COVID-19 symptoms in children****

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most common symptoms of COVID-19</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fever</strong> (temperature 37.8 C/100 F or higher)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms most commonly associated with COVID-19 infection</td>
<td><strong>Chills</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with one of the listed symptoms, should stay home, isolate and get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible</td>
<td><strong>Cough</strong> (more than usual if chronic cough) including croup (barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing) not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, asthma, reactive airway)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Shortness of breath</strong> (dyspnea, out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, wheeze, that is worse than usual if chronically short of breath) not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, asthma)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Decrease or loss of smell or taste</strong> (new olfactory or taste disorder) not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, nasal polyps, allergies, neurological disorders)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea</strong>, not related to other known causes or conditions (transient vomiting due to anxiety in children, chronic vestibular dysfunction, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, side effect of medication)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Other symptoms of COVID-19 | **Sore throat** (painful swallowing or difficulty swallowing) not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, postnasal drip, gastroesophageal (acid) reflux) |
| Children with one or more of these symptom(s) must stay at home and isolate. | **Stuffy nose and/or runny nose** (nasal congestion and/or rhinorrhea) not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, seasonal allergies, returning inside from the cold, chronic sinusitis unchanged from baseline, reactive airways) |
| Children who are high-risk contacts* must get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible. | **Conjunctivitis** (pink eye) (Not related to blepharitis, recurrent styes.) |
| • Household contacts (including siblings) who do not have symptoms and are fully vaccinated* do not need to isolate. Household contacts who have symptoms OR who are not fully vaccinated need to isolate. | **Decreased or lack of appetite** (Not related to anxiety, constipation.) |
| Children who are not high-risk contacts, do not need to get tested but must stay home until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours. | **Headache that is new or persistent, unusual, unexplained or long-lasting not related to known causes or conditions** (for example, tension-type headache, chronic migraines) and not related to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine in the last 48 hours. |
| • Household contacts (including siblings) who do not have symptoms do not need to isolate and can leave the home (regardless of vaccination status). | **Extreme tiredness, lack of energy or feeling unwell** (That is unusual or unexpected (not related to other known causes or conditions or receiving a COVID-19 vaccine in the past 48 hours).) |
| **Muscle aches and pains** (That are unexplained or unusual (not related to other known causes or conditions or receiving a COVID-19 vaccine the past 48 hours).) |

**Mild symptoms like a runny nose do not have to be completely gone when your child returns to child care provided the mild symptom is improving and other symptoms have stopped.**

***If there is no break in contact with the symptomatic child, household members must start their 10-day isolation at the end of the symptomatic child’s isolation period. This results in an isolation period of at least 20 days (10 +10 days).

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**Fully vaccinated** means that it has been at least 14 days since you received:
- the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada (e.g., 2 doses of Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech or AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD, OR 1 dose of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)) or any combination of such vaccines, OR
- one or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada (e.g., Sinopharm) followed by one dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) OR
- three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada (e.g., Abdala).

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