



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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To: All child care services operating in San Luis Obispo County except for those operating in a K-12 school, which follow [Decision Pathways for K-12 Schools](#)

Subject: **Responding to COVID-19 at Child Care**

What's new in this update

This update includes changes in the recommended testing schedule to align with guidance from the CDC and California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

When someone has symptoms of COVID-19

- Exclude symptomatic persons from child care, whether or not they are fully vaccinated.
 - Take action to isolate children who begin to have COVID-19 symptoms while in care from other children and staff. Ensure that isolated children continue to receive adequate care and that the health of the child is continually observed.
 - Exception: Symptomatic persons may remain in child care if there is documentation from a healthcare provider that the current symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) or an alternative diagnosis is named.
- Recommend symptomatic persons get tested whether they are fully vaccinated or not.
 - If test result is negative, they may return to child care IF fever-free for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medication AND symptoms have improved.
 - If no test result is provided, assume person is positive.

Immediately seek urgent or emergency medical care (call 911) if you notice these warning signs in a child:

- Difficulty breathing or catching his or her breath
- Inability to keep down any liquids
- New confusion or inability to awaken
- Bluish lips

When someone tests positive for COVID-19

- Exclude from child care.
 - Share [isolation instructions](#), and recommend they contact their health care provider.
- Report without delay.

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- Notify families and employees that a student or employee has tested positive for COVID-19 and that you will notify any close contacts who were potentially exposed. Maintain the individual's privacy and do not identify them in the family and employee notification.
- Report positive case to SLO PH by using the reporting portal at www.slocounty.ca.gov/K12COVID.
- Report to CDSS Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) through their [local Regional Office](#) as required pursuant to Title 22, [CCR section 101212\(d\)](#).
- Identify close contacts.
 - Identify all individuals at child care who have had close contact with the infected person during their infectious period. A close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, in close contact for 5 minutes 3 different times in one day for a total of 15 minutes) even if they were wearing masks.
 - An infectious period begins 2 days before the positive person has any symptoms or 2 days before they were tested for COVID-19 and lasts until they have completed their home isolation period.
- Notify close contacts and exclude from child care.
 - Share [quarantine instructions](#).
 - Keep private the name of person who tested positive, except when reporting that information to SLO PH either electronically or by telephone.
 - Recommend they contact their health care provider and get tested immediately and 5-7 days after exposure, whether or not they are fully vaccinated.
 - The following close contacts do NOT need to quarantine following an exposure
 - Close contacts who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 AND can verify they have been fully vaccinated. Testing 3-7 days after exposure is still recommended; or
 - Close contacts who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 AND can verify they have previously tested positive in the last 90 days and are no longer in isolation.
- Email list of close contacts to SLO PH at publichealth.k12covid@co.slo.ca.us.
 - List includes name of exposed person, date of birth, COVID-19 vaccination status, email of parent or guardian if a minor, or mailing address if no email.
 - Don't include names in email subject line.
- Monitor children and staff for symptoms and potential exposure.

Returning to child care

- Once the individual has completed the minimum isolation or quarantine period, they can return to the child care if they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medication AND symptoms have improved.
- A release from isolation or quarantine form is optional and available at www.slocounty.ca.gov/release.

Requirements for Employers

- Ensure all staff understand and follow the current [State Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs](#) and the [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards](#).