WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD BECOMES SICK OR RECEIVES A NEW COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS AT YOUR FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

Child shows signs of an illness that could be COVID-19.

Child is found to have COVID-19 and begins isolation in their home.

Start a list of close contacts of the ill child and inform parents, guardians, or caregivers of close contacts of possible exposure. Consider if you (the family child care provider) have had close contact with the child who tested positive.

Work with local health officials to assess spread and support follow up with parents, guardians, or caregivers of children that had contact with the ill child.

Ensure that the child is properly supervised. Call the parent, guardian, or caregiver. Arrangements are made for child to either go home or seek emergency medical attention.

Note: If there is only one adult in the home and all children in care must stay in the same room/area as the sick child, ensure that all children 2 years or older wear masks and stay at least 6 feet apart while supervised.

Parent, guardian, or caregiver picks up child. Parent, guardian, or caregiver contacts healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test.

Clean and disinfect areas that the ill child occupied. Ventilate the area(s), wait as long as possible before cleaning to let virus particles settle (at least several hours), and use personal protective equipment (including any protection needed for the cleaning and disinfection products) to reduce risk of infection.

Parents, guardians, or caregivers of close contacts are advised to keep their children home (quarantine for 14 days) and to consult with the child’s healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test.

Members of the ill child’s household and any child care provider who had close contact with the child are advised to quarantine for 14 days. Options to shorten quarantine are described here,[1], but keep in mind this increases risk of spread.

The ill child can return to child care and end isolation once the following are met:

- 10 days out from the start of the symptoms, AND
- Fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND
- Symptoms have improved.


Scenario based on geographic area with community transmission of SARS-COV-2 the virus that causes COVID-19.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 in children include fever or chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches and poor appetite or poor feeding (especially in babies under 1 year old).

*** With no known close contact.

**** Close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask.

***** To the extent allowable by applicable laws regarding privacy.