**Return to Child Care Criteria**

*Note: These scenarios include the standard criteria to return to child care for children and staff. Individual guidance from DC Health or a healthcare provider should always supersede these criteria. See page 4 of this document for special considerations for fully vaccinated individuals and for individuals who have recovered for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.*

**Scenario 1: Child or Staff Member with COVID-19 Symptoms**

*Note: This scenario requires exclusion until return criteria are met.*

- **COVID-19 Symptoms**
  - Recommend the individual seek healthcare guidance to determine if COVID-19 testing is indicated
  - **Individual is tested**
    - Note: Individuals must not attend child care while awaiting test results
    - **If positive:** see Scenario #2
    - **If negative:** see Scenario #3
  - **If the individual does not complete test**
    - Submit documentation from a healthcare provider of an alternate diagnosis, and meet standard criteria to return after illness
  - **Meet symptom-based criteria to return:**
    1. At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g., Motrin, Tylenol) and symptoms have improved; AND
    2. At least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared, whichever is later
  - **Return to child care**

**Scenario 2: Child or Staff Member with a Positive COVID-19 Test Result**

*Note: This scenario requires exclusion until return criteria are met.*

- **Positive COVID-19 Test Result (Antigen or PCR)**
  - If symptomatic
    - (1) At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved; AND
    - (2) At least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared, whichever is later
  - If asymptomatic
    - 10 days from positive test
  - **Return to child care**
Scenario 3: Child or Staff Member with a Negative COVID-19 Test Result After Symptoms of COVID-19

Note: This scenario requires exclusion until return criteria are met.

Scenario 4: Child or Staff Member with Documentation from Healthcare Provider of Alternate Diagnosis After Symptoms of COVID-19

Scenario 5: Child or Staff Member is a Close Contact of an Individual with Confirmed COVID-19

Note: This scenario requires exclusion until return criteria are met.

Note: See page 4 of this document for special considerations for fully vaccinated individuals and for individuals who have recovered for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.
Scenario 6: Child or Staff Member is a Household Member of a Symptomatic Individual Awaiting a COVID-19 Test Result

Note: This scenario recommends exclusion until return criteria are met.

Note: See page 4 of this document for special considerations for fully vaccinated individuals and for individuals who have recovered for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

Scenario 7: Child or Staff Member Traveled Domestically or Internationally?

Note: This scenario recommends exclusion until return criteria are met.

Note: See page 4 of this document for special considerations for fully vaccinated individuals and for individuals who have recovered for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

Endnotes

1 Children or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19–like symptoms must not be excluded from entering the building on the basis of those specific symptoms, if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19.

2 Standard criteria to return after illness refers to the individual facility's existing policies and protocols for a child or employee to return to care after illness.


4 Regardless of whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, close contacts (including all members of the household) must not attend child care until they meet the criteria to return per Scenario #5.

5 Per Scenario #5, a negative test result after close contact with an individual with confirmed COVID-19 must not shorten the time period of at least 10 days before returning to child care.

6 DC Health strongly recommends that individuals who live or work with someone at higher-risk for COVID-19 quarantine for 14 days. See DC Health's Guidance for Quarantine after COVID-19 Exposure on coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance for more information.

7 For more detailed guidance related to returning from domestic and international travel, see DC Health's Guidance for travel at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.
Special Considerations

Individuals who have Recently Recovered from COVID-19

Provided that they do not currently have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, an individual who has **tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days** may return to care immediately in the following circumstances:

1. After close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19,
2. When a symptomatic household member is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or
3. After travel.

Any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must follow Scenario #1.

Individuals who are Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19

Provided that they do not currently have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, an individual who is **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 may return to care immediately in the following circumstances:

1. After close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19,
2. When a symptomatic household member is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or
3. After travel.

A person is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after completion of a COVID-19 vaccination series (after the second dose of a 2-dose series, or after one dose of a single-dose vaccine).

Any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must follow Scenario #1.

SEE ALSO OSSE’S COVID-19 EXCLUSION AND DISMISSAL CRITERIA AND PROTOCOLS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AVAILABLE ON THE OSSE WEBSITE.