

State and County Requirements on Masking, Testing, and Notifications for San Diego County Childcare Settings (Dec. 08, 2022)

This table highlights certain recommendations and requirements, but not the full depth or scope present in the source material. In addition to using links embedded in the document, readers should review the full text of [Cal/OSHA emergency temporary standards for COVID-19](#), as expressed in the California Code of Regulations, and consult with their [CDSS Child Care Licensing Regional Office](#). Preschools, daycares, and school districts have the authority to exceed these recommendations and requirements.

	Scenario	Attendees/Students	Providers/Employees
ISOLATION	Symptomatic or Positive Individuals	Providers must take action to exclude or isolate any child, parent, caregiver, or staff showing symptoms of a contagious disease or illness as required pursuant to CCR Title 22 .	
	Day 0 is the day when symptoms started. Day 1 is the next day.	Stay home for at least 5 Days after start of symptoms (or positive test collection date if no symptoms). Test, if not already done. May return to care on Day 6 if fever free for 24 hours (without use of fever-reducing medication) and other symptoms are improving. * Children under 2 years: Testing may be considered on Day 5 prior to return. Children 2 years and older: Testing recommended at Day 5 prior to return. Recommended to mask through Day 10. (See CDPH Sick/Positive Child Decision Tree (Spanish) & CDPH Childcare Guidance .)	Employees who test positive for COVID-19 are required to be excluded from the workplace for at least 5 days after start of symptoms or after date of first positive test if no symptoms. * Return to work on Day 6 if symptoms are not present or are resolving AND a test collected on Day 5 or later is negative. If unable, or unwilling to test, return on Day 11. Employees must wear face coverings through Day 10 if returning prior to Day 11. Employees must be fever-free for 24 hours prior to return (without use of fever-reducing medication) and other symptoms must be resolving or not present. (See Cal/OSHA FAQ - CDPH Isolation and Quarantine question 1, table 1 .)
		*If no positive test result, and a negative test was collected AFTER start of symptoms, return once fever free for 24 hours, and other symptoms resolving/improving. A 2 nd negative test is recommended if symptomatic and testing negative within the first few days of symptoms (test again 1-2 days after the 1 st negative test, continue to test every 1-2 days until positive or until symptoms improve).	
QUARANTINE	Exposed Individuals / Close Contacts	Quarantine is not required for children who are exposed and without symptoms or a positive test result.	Quarantine is not required for employees who are exposed and without symptoms or a positive test result.
	Day 0 is the date of last exposure. Day 1 is the next day.	Exposed children should mask around others for a total of 10 days from last date of exposure (if 2 years and older), monitor for symptoms daily, and test immediately and again on day 3-5 following last exposure. If symptoms develop, test and stay home (see isolation above). (See CDPH Childcare Guidance .)	Employees are required to test within 3-5 days after their last exposure and wear a mask around others through Day 10. If unable, or unwilling to test, return on Day 11. If symptoms develop, exclude pending test results (see isolation above). (See Cal/OSHA FAQ – CDPH Isolation & Quarantine, question 1, table 2 .)
	Certain exposures may be deemed higher risk for transmission, such as in a household with longer periods of exposure, or while performing unmasked activities with increased exertion and/or voice projection or during prolonged close face-to-face contact. Similarly, if a close contact is more likely to become infected due to being unvaccinated or immunocompromised, greater care should be taken to follow mitigation measures. These contacts may consider quarantining or self-limiting their exposure to others. (See CDPH Guidance on Isolation & Quarantine - high-risk exposures .)		

	Scenario	Attendees/Students	Providers/Employees
MASKING	<p>General</p> <p>Children younger than 2 should NOT wear masks.</p> <p>Masks should NOT be worn while sleeping/napping, eating, or during waterplay.</p>	<p>Masking guidance in all indoor settings is now based on CDC COVID-19 Community Levels. Providers have the right to establish internal policies requiring face masks in their centers and family child care homes while following the mask exemption guidance outlined by CDPH. No person can be prevented from wearing a mask unless it would pose a safety hazard. Ensure children do not overheat. (See CDPH Childcare Guidance.)</p>	<p>Employers are required to allow employees to wear a mask unless it would create a safety hazard. Employers can have stricter policies than required by the Cal/OSHA ETS. All employers must provide and ensure face coverings are worn when required by CDPH (after return from isolation, after close contact), and during outbreaks. Employers must provide masks upon employee request. (See Cal/OSHA FAQ on Face Covers and Other Controls.)</p>
	<p>Close Contact</p>	<p>Masks are recommended through Day 10 for close contacts (2 years and older) who remain asymptomatic and COVID-19 negative, especially in indoor settings and when near those at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease. (See CDPH Childcare Guidance.)</p>	<p>Masks are required through Day 10 for close contacts who remain asymptomatic and COVID-negative. (See Cal/OSHA FAQ - Face Covers and Other Controls question 4 & Cal/OSHA FAQ – CDPH Isolation and Quarantine question 1, table 2.)</p>
	<p>Returning from Isolation</p>	<p>Masks are Recommended through Day 10 (2 years and older) when return before Day 11 is authorized per the Isolation Scenario above.</p>	<p>Masks are Required through Day 10 when return before Day 11 is authorized per the Isolation Scenario above. (See Cal/OSHA FAQ - Face Covers and Other Controls question 4 & Cal/OSHA FAQ – CDPH Isolation and Quarantine question 1, table 1.)</p>
TESTING	<p>General</p>	<p>Providers are encouraged to share information about COVID-19 testing resources for children, particularly for vulnerable communities. Encourage families to have home tests available at home to be prepared in case someone needs testing. (See CDPH Childcare Guidance.)</p>	<p>Employers are required to offer testing at no cost during paid time to all employees with symptoms, exposure at work, and who are in an exposed group during an outbreak. Inform all employees on how they can obtain testing. This could be through the employer, health department, the federal government, a health plan or at a community testing site. Verification of testing results must be obtained (e.g., time and date stamped photo of results). (See Cal/OSHA FAQ – Testing.)</p>
		<p>Antigen rather than PCR tests are recommended as the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in child care setting. Consider having children and staff test prior to returning from major holiday breaks. (See CDPH Childcare Guidance.)</p>	
	<p>Close Contact</p>	<p>Children with known exposure to persons with COVID-19 should get tested as soon as possible and on Day 3, 4, or 5 after last exposure. Test if symptoms develop at any time. (See CDPH Childcare Guidance.)</p>	<p>To remain at work through Day 10, employees are required to test on Day 3, 4, or 5, following their last exposure, and provide verified results to their employer. Employers are also required to provide access to testing free of charge during work hours. (See Cal/OSHA FAQ – Testing question 1 and CDPH Isolation and Quarantine question 1.) (For additional information and requirements review CCR §3205(b) and §3205.1.)</p>
		<p>Close contacts should consider testing immediately after learning of exposure, if negative test again on day 3, 4, or 5. Persons previously infected within 30 days do not need to be tested, quarantined, or excluded unless symptoms develop (if symptomatic, antigen testing is preferred).</p>	
	<p>Returning from Isolation</p>	<p>For children under 2 years of age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing may be considered on Day 5 but is not necessary before discontinuation of isolation. <p>For children 2 years of age and older:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing is recommended on Day 5. 	<p>Employees must test on Day 5 or later. Cal/OSHA's emergency temporary standards require employers to obtain evidence of verified test results. Employees may return on Day 11 without a negative test result. (See Cal/OSHA FAQ – Testing question 1 and CDPH Isolation and Quarantine question 1.)</p>

	Scenario	Attendees/Students	Providers/Employees
		(See CDPH Child Care Guidance .) For additional return criteria see Isolation Scenario above.	For additional return criteria see Isolation Scenario above.
		If a case continues to test positive on Day 5 or later, they should continue isolation until either a negative test is obtained, or 10 full days have passed and other criteria to end isolation are met.	
NOTIFICATIONS	Local Health and CCL	Childcare settings are encouraged to notify San Diego County Public Health Services when they have knowledge of a positive COVID-19 test result, in accordance with CCR Title 17, Section 2508 , and to help contain transmission. Per CDPH Child Care Guidance , reporting outbreaks to the local health department and Community Care Licensing is required as outlined in CCR Title 22, Section 101212(d) and (g) (Child Care Centers) and Section 102416.2(c)(3) (Family Day Care Homes). As workplaces, child care providers are subject to COVID-19 workplace outbreak reporting requirements as specified in AB 685 and Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards . Report the occurrence of 2 or more cases testing positive within a 14-day period to both CCL and the local health department.	
	Close Contact	Child care providers should notify children who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g. classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their infectious period. (See CDPH Childcare Guidance .)	Employers are required to notify employee close contacts and employees within an exposed group within one business day of learning that a person was infectious while in the workplace. The notification must include masking and testing requirements and provide information on where employees can test during work hours. (See Cal/OSHA FAQ - CDPH Isolation and Quarantine question 1 , Communication with Employees , and CCR 3205(c)(3)(B)(3) .) (For additional information and requirements review CCR §3205(b) and §3205.1 .)
		Prompt notification to employees, children, and families regarding exposure to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, can allow for rapid testing, early treatment, and prevention of further spread. Respect privacy laws when providing exposure information and do not share the identity of or other confidential information about the person who had COVID-19 when notifying employees, children, and families. (See CDPH Childcare Guidance .)	
	Isolation	Families should notify child care providers if their child has COVID-19 and was in care during their infectious period. Providers must take action to exclude or isolate any child, parent, caregiver, or staff showing symptoms of a contagious disease or illness. This includes notifying parents of facility policies regarding return to care. (See CDPH Child Care Guidance .)	Employers are required to ensure employees who have symptoms and/or have tested positive isolate according to the Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine . Notification on the requirements for return before Day 11 and testing options is necessary to meet this requirement . (See Cal/OSHA FAQ - CDPH Isolation and Quarantine question 1 , Communication with Employees and CCR 3205(c)(3)(B)(a) and (b) .)
	Supplemental Leave	Does not apply to students, but regarding absences schools should discontinue attendance incentive programs, or revise them to align with and support COVID-19 prevention requirements.	California requires employers with 26 or more employees to provide COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for workers through December 31, 2022. This includes circumstances in which workers are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis, attending a vaccine appointment for themselves or for a family member, and/or if a worker's child is isolating due to COVID-19 infection.

