

# Fever / COVID-19 Symptom Decision Tree

(Version: 09/10/2020a)

**At childcare site, child or staff member develops any one of the following signs or symptoms:**

- Fever with or without chills/rigors (fever defined as  $T > 100.0$  that does not resolve within 30 min. without medication);
  - Cough\*
  - Shortness of breath
  - Nasal congestion/rhinorrhea (runny nose)\*
  - Sore throat
  - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea\*
  - Fatigue\*
  - New loss of taste/smell
  - Headache\*
  - Muscle or body aches\*
  - Poor feeding or poor appetite\*



\* Disregard this symptom if childcare staff/personnel already aware of a chronic, pre-existing condition that causes the symptom. The nature of the presenting symptom (e.g., duration, intensity) must be consistent with the underlying chronic condition.

**ACTION:** Apply appropriate PPE; isolate child/staff member until sent home; recommend they contact health care provider for instructions/testing. Note: Other infections can cause similar symptoms (e.g., flu, strep, etc.) *but these do not rule out COVID-19 as co-occurring.*



## CHILD / STAFF TO STAY HOME UNTIL...

**With PCR COVID-19 viral test**  
(Not antibody test; not antigen test)

**Without PCR Covid-19 viral test**

**Note from healthcare provider re: chronic illness**

**Negative**

**Positive**

**Proof of negative test required.**

**May return 72 hours after symptoms resolved.**

*Consider notification to childcare community.*

Identify all close contacts (as defined by CDC). Identify all cohort/group/class members. Quarantine and exclude close contacts (and work with public health & local Child Care Licensing Regional Office on decision to exclude entire cohort) for 14 days after last date case present.

Notification to childcare community of a known case.

**Retested or Not Retested**  
\*Proof of negative test not required

If note from MD/DO/NP/PA, or public health defines case as presumed COVID-19 virus (based on symptoms and circumstances), then: (a) consider notifying staff and parents of cohort of a potential exposure; and (b) in conjunction with public health & local Child Care Licensing Regional Office, exclude "close contacts" (using CDC definition) for 14 days from last day of exposure.

**Isolate the case. May return when:**  
(a) 24 hours without fever (no meds) and (b) symptoms are improving AND (c) at least 10 days from symptom onset or testdate.

A signed note from a licensed MD/DO/NP/PA (who manages that condition) must: confirm the chronic diagnosis (i.e., cites labs, date-of-record when diagnosed); include provider's contact information; explain how symptoms are unrelated to COVID-19; and be accompanied by signed consent for childcare provider to interact with MD/DO/NP/PA.

**May return to childcare immediately**  
Consider individualized child health plan to prevent any future unnecessary dismissals.



If childcare provider becomes aware of one case in one cohort/class/group, then have childcare administrator contact the Public Health Department at (619) 692-8499 & local Child Care Licensing Regional Office at (619) 767-2200 to report the case for further directions on quarantine.