Child Care FAQ's

GREENVILLE COUNTY
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Definitions of Terms Provided by DHEC
(see references below)

Symptomatic – Showing symptoms of disease. Currently any one of the following with or without fever: new or worsening cough, difficulty breathing/shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell. Anyone experiencing even one of these symptoms should be excluded from daycare until evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID.

Asymptomatic – Showing no symptoms of disease. A person infected with the virus that does not develop any symptoms at all during their infection.

Confirmed Positive – Someone who has received a positive result on a COVID-19 test. Being symptomatic is not the same as being confirmed.

Isolation – Separating sick people with a contagious disease, like COVID-19, from those who are not sick. Used for those who are sick (confirmed, even if asymptomatic), it means staying at home and away from others, including, to the extent possible, family members. For COVID-19, the isolation period is typically 10 days.

Quarantine – Separating and restricting the movement of people exposed (or potentially exposed) to a contagious disease, like COVID-19. For those who are well but have been or may have been exposed to COVID-19, it means staying at home and potentially only coming into contact with family members or others with whom you reside. For COVID-19, the quarantine period is 14 days from the time of last exposure to the person with COVID-19.

Close Contact Exposure – A person who may be at risk of a contagious disease, like COVID-19, because of their proximity or exposure to a known COVID-19 case. The definition of close contact considers both distance and duration, so it is important to limit the duration of direct and unprotected exposure. A close contact exposure is someone who, regardless of mask use, has spent at least 15 minutes within six feet of an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 or has had direct contact with the infected person's secretions during the time that individual was contagious *(up to two days prior to a positive test or onset of symptoms).*

September 2020

Incubation Period – The number of days between when a person is infected and when they might see symptoms. The incubation period for COVID-19 ranges from 2-14 days.

Respiratory Droplets – Moisture in the air we breathe out, and the primary way COVID-19 is transmitted.

Contact Tracing – The process of identifying, assessing, and managing people who have been exposed to a contagious disease, like COVID-19, to prevent onward transmission.

Social Distancing – Keeping a safe space between a person and other people who are not from their household. The CDC recommends 6 feet *(at least 2 arms' length from other people)* in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Cohorting – Forming groups of children, and sometimes teachers and staff, that stay together throughout the day to minimize exposure for children, teachers and staff across the school or daycare environment.

How does the COVID-19 virus spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another *(within about 6 feet).*

What are the precautions that can be taken within our programs?

Mitigation strategies of social distancing *(6 feet)*, masks, hand hygiene, frequent cleaning and disinfecting, staying home when sick, and the use of cohorting is recommended by the CDC.

- **Social distancing**: COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact *(within 6 feet)* for a prolonged period *(15 minutes or more)*. Spread occurs when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and then inhaled into the lungs of people nearby.

- **Masks:** Help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus even from those who have the disease, but do not have symptoms. Masks should be worn in public settings, especially when social distancing is difficult to maintain, like moving through the building.

- **Hand Hygiene:** Keeping your hands clean is one of the best ways to protect yourself and others from getting sick. Germs from unwashed hands can get into the body through the mouth, nose, and eyes and make people sick. Regular handwashing for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available reduces the spread of germs that can cause illness.

- **Frequent cleaning and disinfecting:** Reduce the risk of spreading of infection by removing and killing germs on surfaces people frequently touch between uses as much as possible.
  – Limit use of shared objects and discourage use of sharing items that are difficult to clean and disinfect.
  – Keep each child's belongings separated from others'
  – Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing

- **Staying home when sick:** Communicate to parents the importance of keeping children home when they are sick, and communicate to staff the importance of staying home when sick.

- **Cohorting:** The number of children and staff that will be required to quarantine can be limited by keeping the same children and staff together and limiting any interaction outside of that group.

What steps do we need to take if a staff member/child presents symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 not explained by an underlying condition (i.e. cough from asthma)?

Children or staff members presenting in the program setting with symptoms of COVID-19 should be discreetly placed in the program's identified isolation room and provided a mask to wear *(if able)* until they can safely leave the building. Children should be supervised by an adult wearing a mask and safely social distancing until the parent arrives.

Children or staff excluded for these symptoms should not return until they have either tested negative for COVID-19 or a medical evaluation determines that their symptoms were more likely due to another cause *(e.g. sore throat due to strep throat).* In the latter case, the individual can return when they meet criteria for that condition.

Reference DHEC School and Childcare Exclusion List page 4:
https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-011634.pdf

When should we notify parents?

When a positive COVID-19 case is reported, parents must be notified of the exclusion period and criteria for return. Parents should be encouraged to communicate the details of the quarantine or isolation requirements with the school to ensure protocols are followed in both facilities. Per DHEC, the facility should inform parents of other children in the program who were not classroom or other close contacts to the person with COVID-19 that they should monitor their children for symptoms. The facility should also monitor incoming children and staff each morning for symptoms until fourteen (14) days after the case was in the facility.

How long should a staff member/child be asked to isolate with a positive COVID test?

A child or staff member can return from isolation when all 3 of the following have occurred:
- Ten (10) days have passed since symptoms started ***AND***
- Twenty-four (24) hours have passed since last fever without taking medicine to reduce fever ***AND***
- Overall improvement in symptoms

How long should a staff member/child be asked to quarantine if exposed to a student with a positive test?

Typically, a person determined to be a close contact of someone who tested positive to COVID-19 must quarantine for 14 days from last date of exposure. DHEC recommends testing for close contacts no sooner than 7 days after first contact with a COVID positive person, but they must complete the full quarantine even if they test negative because COVID-19 can present itself up to 14 days after the last date of exposure.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html

References:

https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/Childcare-COVID19-guidance-response-to-case-08.03.2020.pdf

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html

The School District of Greenville County has prepared these COVID-19 protocols and procedures based upon current recommendations from the CDC, SC DHEC, and from other medical resources. This information is being shared with childcare providers on 9/10/20 upon request and to assist those providers. Childcare providers should implement procedures specific to their needs, sizes, and practices.

September 2020