

Isolation and Discharge of Sick Children and Staff

(from <http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/daycare-centers>)

Any child or staff member suspected of having COVID-19 or diagnosed with COVID-19 shall be excluded from the facility pursuant to existing licensing standards regarding communicable disease, 89 Ill. Adm. Code 406, 407, and 408. Symptoms of COVID-19 are fever (temperature greater than 100.4F/37C), chills, sore throat, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headache, vomiting and diarrhea.

If the child or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, he or she is not to return to the child care facility until ALL three of the following are met:

- Individual is free from fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for at least 72 hours.
- Individual's symptoms, including cough, have improved.
- It has been at least 10 days since the onset of the individual's illness.

If the child or staff member has symptoms of COVID-19 and it is subsequently determined by a medical provider that the individual likely does not have a COVID-19 infection, the child or staff member can return to day care if the following is met:

- No fever for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications (fever is temperature greater than 100.4F/37C)
- Negative test for COVID-19 or;
- A note from a medical provider documenting no clinical suspicion of COVID-19 infection

The CDC recommends that any child or staff with close contact (within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes) to a person suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19 be excluded from the day care for 14 days and monitored for symptoms. If symptoms develop, they are encouraged to be evaluated and tested for COVID-19.

Child care providers should develop a written communication plan (part of the ERMP) to be shared with parents, guardians and staff in the event a staff member or child in attendance tests positive for COVID-19. This plan should minimally include:

- How the program will inform parents, guardians and staff of positive COVID-19 cases in the facility;
- Identify the responsible person(s) to notify the local DCFS licensing office by phone and IDPH at 1-800-889-3931 or DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV immediately upon being informed of licensee, staff or child exposure to COVID-19 and follow-up in writing to local DCFS licensing office; and
- Specify that families are expected to immediately notify the child care center or home if someone in their home tests positive or if the child has been in close contact (within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes) with a positive case.

Child care providers should designate a separate space with the door or a solid barrier if possible, to isolate children or staff who become sick while at the child care center. Licensing rules requires all children including those isolated for illness be supervised at all times.

If a child becomes symptomatic, immediately isolate that child from other children and minimize exposure to staff.

Licensing rules require staff members that become symptomatic while giving care cease child care duties immediately and isolate until they can leave.