



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

To: All Child Care Providers
Office of Child Care Staff

From: Louis A. Valenti, Jr.
Licensing Branch Chief
Division of Early Childhood

Date: December 15, 2021

Re: Revised Quarantine Guidance for Child Care Facilities

Who Should Quarantine in Child Care Programs

[Close contacts](#) of a person with COVID-19 who was in the child care building should be identified for the purpose of making [quarantine](#) recommendations. Based on [CDC guidance](#), asymptomatic fully vaccinated persons are not currently required to quarantine following an exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Length of Quarantine for Child Care Programs

Based on [guidance](#) from the CDC, the following options for **shortened quarantine** may be acceptable alternatives in child care programs depending upon local circumstances and resources:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 if NO symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring; OR
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen (collected on Day 5 or later) tests negative and if NO symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation, but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.

When a person meets these criteria and quarantine is ended early, all of the following must be implemented:

- Daily symptom monitoring continues through Day 14; AND
- Persons are counseled regarding the need to adhere strictly to all recommended mitigation strategies (i.e. correct and consistent face mask use, self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19) through Day 14; AND
- Persons are advised that if any symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and contact their health care provider to determine if they need to be tested and how long they should be excluded from work or child care.

NOTE: When child care programs use one of the shortened quarantine periods above, physical distancing should be maintained when masks must be removed while eating and during naptime.