

DPH and OEC Updating Public Health Guidance: Early Childhood Settings

“There is nothing
permanent but
change.”

— Heraclitus

1/14/2022



WHAT WE WILL DISCUSS TODAY:



- Update on CT COVID-19 data
- Steps to mitigate the spread
- Mask and test distribution update
- Memos related to COVID-19 updated
- Reminders about best practices for public health

Omicron is highly contagious with increasing cases in CT – Vaccines and Boosters are best defense

“One thing is clear, and we have learned it throughout the past year as we have weathered other mutations of COVID-19: **vaccination continues to be the best defense against severe illness** and death. If you are unvaccinated, you are five times more likely to get infected. If you are unvaccinated, you are 10 times more likely to be hospitalized. If you are unvaccinated, you are 15 times more likely to die.

We have so many tools in front of us that we did not have a year ago. But we still need to do a better job in protecting ourselves, our loved ones and our communities.”

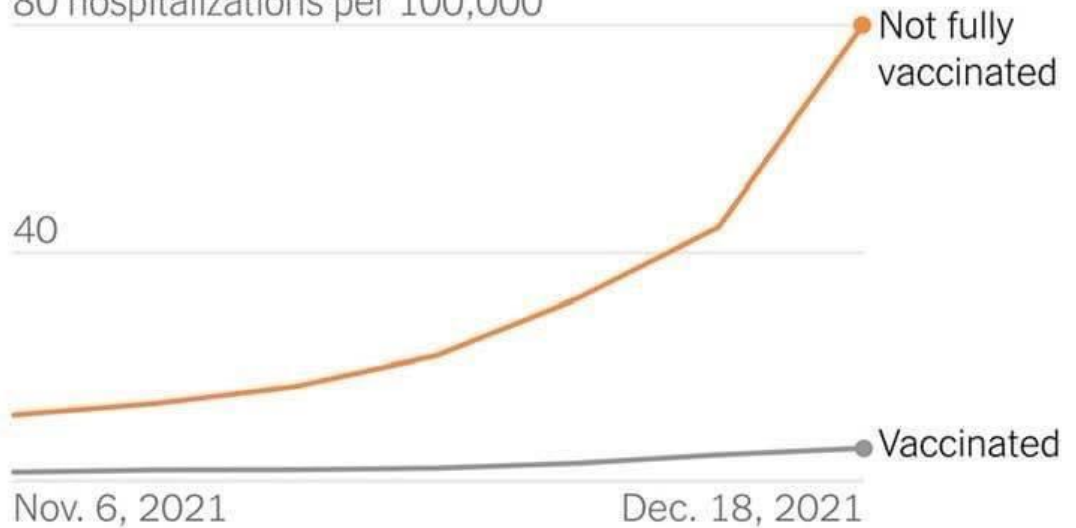
Dr. Manisha Juthani, 12/22/21



Vaccines
Make a big
difference in
health
outcomes of
infection

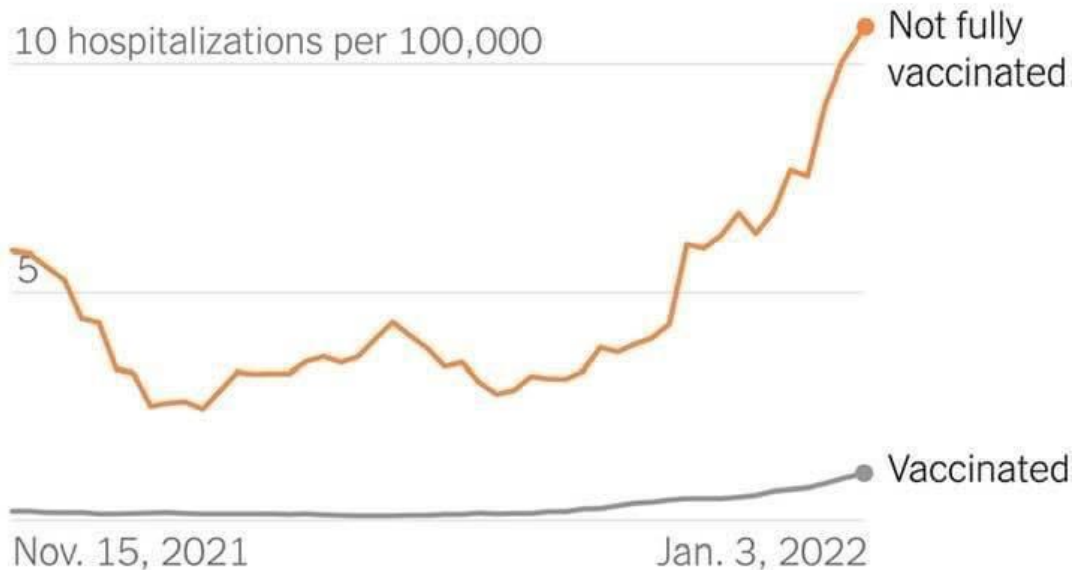
Weekly hospitalizations in New York City

80 hospitalizations per 100,000



Daily average hospitalizations in the Seattle area

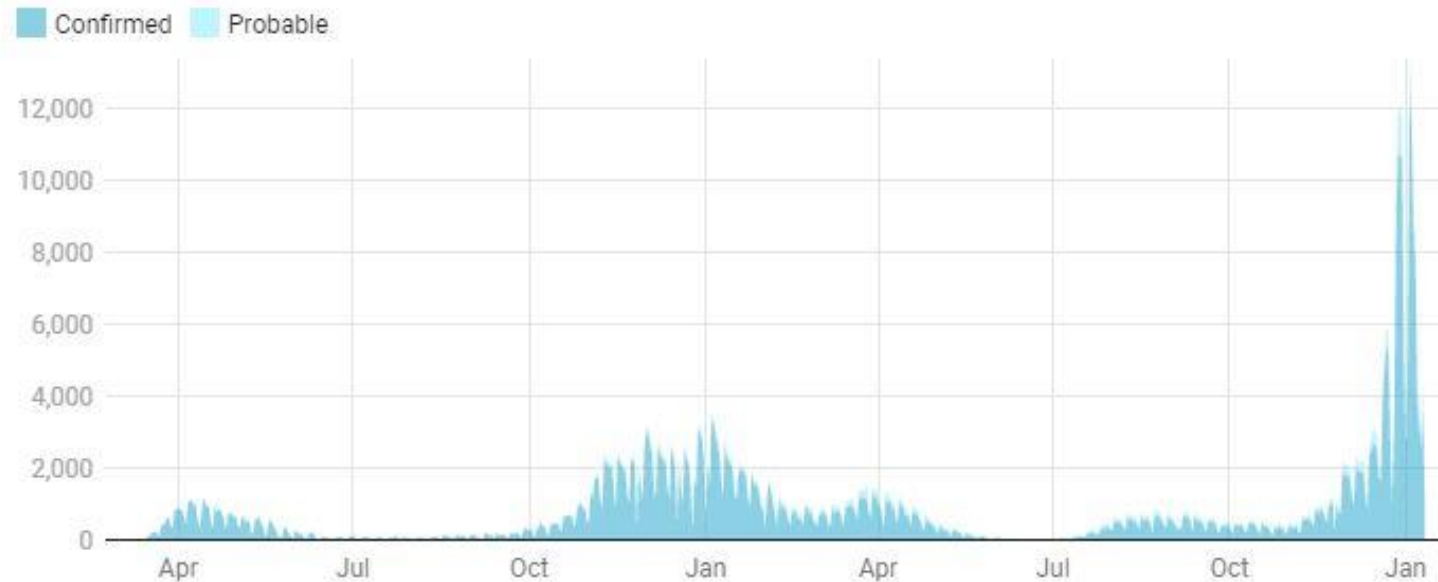
10 hospitalizations per 100,000



COVID Cases CT

Number of Confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Cases by Date

Test results may be reported several days after the result. Data are incomplete for the most recent days. Data from previous dates are routinely updated.

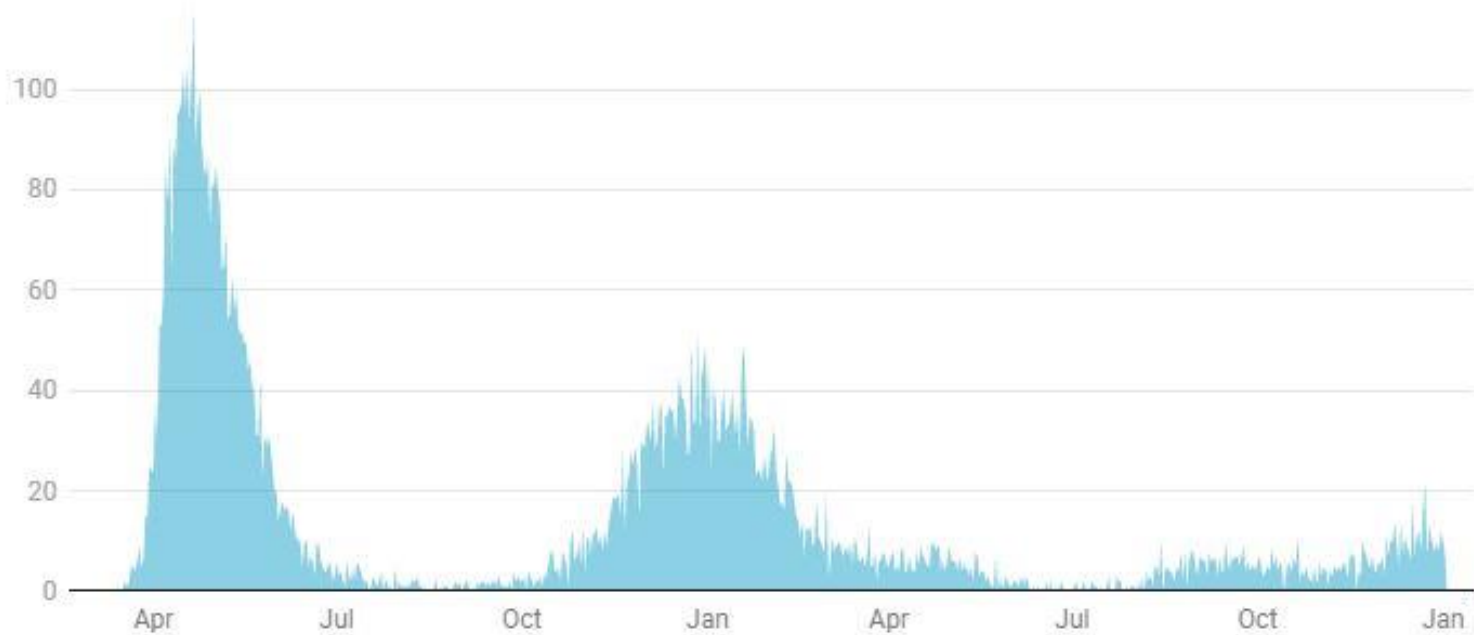


Date of Specimen Collection (confirmed) or Symptom Onset (probable)

Chart: Ver 5.11.2021 • Source: [CT Department of Public Health](#) • [Embed](#) • [Download image](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

COVID Deaths

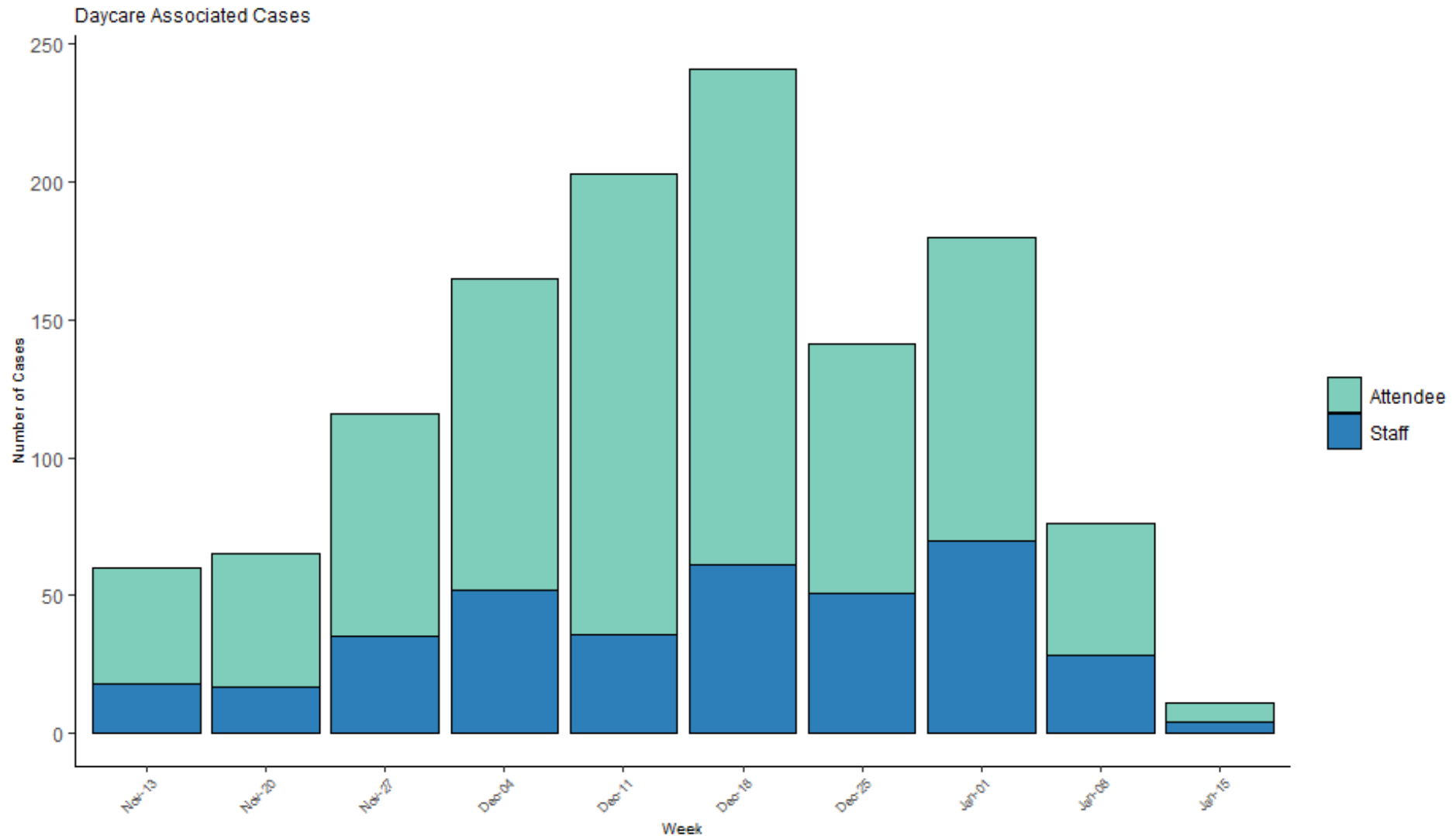
Number of COVID-19 Associated Deaths by Date of Death



All data are preliminary and subject to change. Data from previous dates are routinely updated.

Chart: Ver 5.11.2021 • Source: [Connecticut Department of Public Health](#) • [Embed](#) • [Download image](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

DPH Statistics COVID-19 Reports Child Care



Tactics to avoid getting ill and to keep others safe

(children in classrooms and fellow staff)

- Get your COVID vaccine and booster.
 - <https://portal.ct.gov/vaccine-portal/Vaccine-Knowledge-Base/Articles/How-To-Get-A-Booster>
- Wear a mask indoors in public spaces & when interacting in close contact with individuals outside of your household.
- Keep private gatherings small and spaced, especially if you/others in attendance not vaccinated or at increased risk from COVID.
- Get tested and avoid activities with individuals outside of your household if you have been advised to quarantine.
- Stay away from others and get a test administered by a health provider if you have symptoms that could be related to COVID-19. That cold may be more than just a cold.
- Get tested/test yourself at home, before & after specific events.
- Travel cautiously and in accordance with any federal, state, or local guidance.

CT Data – January 12, 2022

State Summary

Connecticut COVID-19 Summary

Summary for the most recent day of reporting. Includes confirmed plus probable cases; probable cases include persons with positive antigen results

Measure	Total	ChangeDirection	Change
COVID-19 Cases (confirmed and probable)	619,185	+	7,318
COVID-19 Tests Reported (molecular and antigen)	13,955,964	+	34,460
Daily Test Positivity*			21.24%
Patients Currently Hospitalized with COVID-19	1,939	+	19

Daily test positivity is the number of new positive molecular and antigen cases divided by the number of new molecular and antigen tests reported in the past 24 hours.

Table: Ver 5.11.2021 • Source: [CT Department of Public Health](#) • [Embed](#) • [Download image](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Masks and Tests

110,000 Masks for staff distributed
98,000 Tests for children and staff

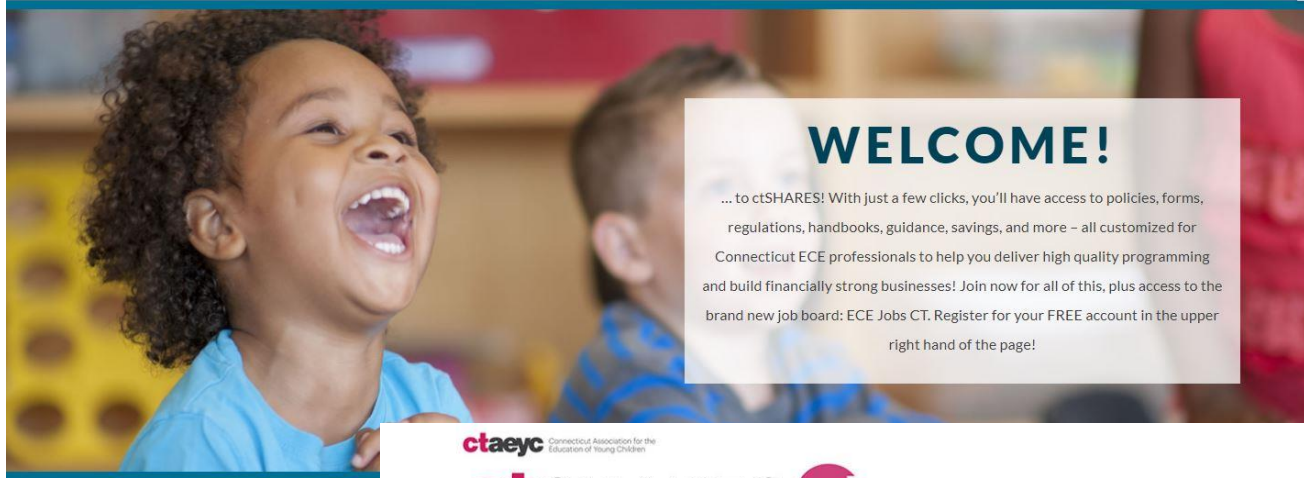


- N-95 Masks distributed to offer protection for staff.
 - 5 per staff member were designated – rounded up.
 - They may or may not be optimal for staff (depends on mask compliance)
- Rapid Tests were distributed to give programs a tool for symptomatic staff or children
- For children, tests intended for families to administer
- OEC will announce regional pick-up for allocations.
- Distributions based on 1 tests per licensed capacity + 20% for staff (centers).
- 10 per FCC Home

Guidance on Tests and Spanish Instructions

- OEC provided iHealth® COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test and *FlowFlex* COVID-19 Antigen Home Test Kits
 - Each iHealth kit includes two tests and [detailed instructions](#) for parents and staff to follow . Instructions in English and Spanish
- Each *FlowFlex* kit contains one kit with detailed instructions in English and Spanish in the box.
- Adult family members should administer tests to their children. Staff should administer their own tests. **Staff should not administer tests to children** enrolled in programs.





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Save Time, Save Money

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Trending Topics



Need COVID-19 Self-Test Kits?

Food & Supply Source is now offering COVID-19 Self Test Kits that are available for quick delivery. Learn more about this opportunity and how to order here!



Compliance Audits Made Easy

Join us on January 18th for the free 60-minute webinar, 'Compliance Made Easy' with Lynn Wenger from 1Place Childcare. Learn more and register today to explore how to take your compliance audit practices to the next level and engage staff in the process.



Cultural Responsiveness

Celebrating culture and family in the classroom!

ECE JOBS CT

The best place to find and post child care jobs in Connecticut!

Powered by acquire4hire, ECE Jobs CT is a free, all-in-one tool for both job seekers and employers who are looking to hire talented ECE program staff and support personnel. Your free ctSHARES account allows access to search for a job or post an opening.

Benefits of using ECE Jobs CT:

- **FREE TO POST:** Unlike most job boards, posting jobs is FREE for members of ctSHARES!
- **8 JOB BOARDS IN 1:** Each job post automatically appears across 8 other job sites including Indeed.com, LinkedIn, Jora, Job Rapido, Adzuna, Career Jet, Oodle, and Juju!
- **SHOW UP IN GOOGLE RESULTS:** Your job post automatically shows up in Google search results! This is one of the easiest way for job seekers to find information about your opportunity.
- **JOB DESCRIPTION TEMPLATES:** The platform provides ready-to-use job description templates specifically created for

Updates to Memo #37

Isolation means to separate sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

Quarantine means to separate and restrict the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

OEC and DPH have worked to provide more clarity on updates released last week.

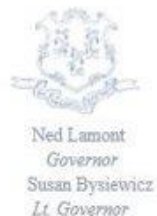
- Worked with SDE too & there are important differences:
- 0-5 year olds cannot be vaccinated
- Children under 5 may not be able to mask reliably, children < 3 not required to mask.

Local health departments continue to be a resource for individual cases

Memo contains a chart to help with guidance about quarantine and exclusion for staff and children

- Earlier forms of COVID-19 did not show as much transmission as Omicron, so programs are facing more cases, classroom closures, staff shortages
- Stress among program leaders, teachers, families is extremely high

Updates in Box



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



DATE: March 26, 2021 REVISED June 2, 2021 REVISED January 3, 2022 **REVISED January 14, 2022**

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Coronavirus Memo 37 **REVISED**
Quarantine and Isolation Guidance for Individuals who work in Child Care, Youth Camp, Birth To Three And Home Visiting Programs Serving Children

REVISION June 2, 2021	Added reference to Choosing Safer Activities; updated adult masks required for indoors only
REVISION January 3, 2022	Updated recommended guidance for isolation and quarantine period
REVISION January 14, 2022	Changed title to include quarantine and isolation; removed information pertaining to vaccine requirement as this is covered in Memo 45; updated recommended guidance for isolation and quarantine period; updated reporting of positive COVID-19 cases

Guidance Chart in Memo

	Individuals (e.g. staff or children) with any COVID-19 symptoms		Individuals (e.g. staff or children) with no COVID-19 symptoms
If fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (defined as two weeks after second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or first dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine)	<p>Isolate at home.</p> <p>Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site).</p> <p>If test result is negative, return to activities when fever-free for at least 24 hrs. and other symptoms are significantly improved.</p> <p>If test result is positive, isolate for at least 5 days, return to activities on day 6 or later when fever-free for at least 24 hrs. and other symptoms are significantly improved.</p> <p>Wear a mask at all times when around others for an additional 5 days (i.e., through day 10).</p>		<p><i>If notified of a close contact with a COVID-19 case:</i></p> <p>Continue with work/daycare attendance.</p> <p>Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site) 5 days after the exposure.</p> <p>Consider quarantining for 5-days from other activities outside of work, especially if notified of an extended high-intensity exposure (e.g., household contact, unmasked social contact, contact during athletic activities).</p> <p>Wear a mask at all times during any activities when around others for 10 days.</p>
<p>If only partially vaccinated (one dose of a two dose COVID-19 vaccine or within two weeks of final dose) or Unvaccinated or Vaccination status is unknown</p>	<p><i>If notified of a close contact with a COVID-19 case:</i></p> <p>Isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days since last exposure to the COVID-19 case.</p> <p>Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site).</p> <p>Return to activities on day 6 or later when</p>	<p><i>If no known close contact with a COVID-19 case:</i></p> <p>Isolate at home.</p> <p>Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site).</p> <p>If test result is negative, return to activities when fever-free for at least 24 hrs. and other symptoms are significantly improved.</p>	<p><i>If notified of a close contact with a COVID-19 case:</i></p> <p>Quarantine at home from work, daycare and other activities for 5 days from the last exposure to the COVID-19 case.</p> <p>Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site) 5 days after the exposure.</p> <p>Wear a mask at all times during any activities when around others for an additional 5 days (i.e., through day 10).</p>

What changed?

- ✓ Reporting process

Programs will now report on a form that will be shared with DPH and SDE to update data and help agencies track

- ✓ Clarity around children under 3 years old and exclusion

10 days of quarantine for the younger children who cannot reliably mask

- ✓ Chart Updated

3-5 year old classrooms will require program judgment about individuals' ability to consistently wear a mask when considering quarantine timeframe (5 or 10 days).

Positive COVID-19 Case Reporting

Report by close of business Tuesday, all positive cases (by any test) among enrolled children and staff reported during the previous Sunday-Saturday.

If you need to report older data, please email dph.epi@ct.gov with the data and specify the week (with dates) you are reporting for.

* Required

Program Information

1. License Type *

- ☐ DCCC (Child Care Center)
- ☐ DCGH (Group Child Care Home)
- ☐ DCFH (Family Child Care Home)
- ☐ YCYC (Youth Camp)

2. License Number *

Enter your answer

Reports due weekly by
close of business
Tuesday for period of
Saturday to Sunday
(from prior week)

Memo 45 – Changes

Addresses vaccination requirements, testing and exemptions, proof of meeting the requirements, and monitoring by OEC.

- A program may consider adopting a policy that requires staff, including those hired before Sept. 27, 2021, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and may wish to consult their own legal counsel in doing so, as this exceeds the requirements of Memo 45.
- **On January 3, 2022 Memo 45 was updated** to temporarily allow for COVID-19 self-administered tests in addition to laboratory tests for the period thru/ January 17th.
- This **temporary** allowance is made in light of high utilization of testing at this time.
 - Tests distributed by OEC are not intended for this purpose.
- Staff who are unvaccinated must provide proof of a home or laboratory test result to their program weekly during the first two weeks of January, 2022.
- Following January 17, 2022, testing that is not collected or observed by a healthcare professional listed in Memo 45 and processed and reported by a laboratory or provider listed in Memo 45 will not be acceptable for compliance with Executive Order No. 13G.
- *Unvaccinated staff are encouraged to schedule PCR tests in advance of the January 17th deadline.*

Continue Public Health Practices




Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood

11.8.2021

GUIDANCE

While not required, OEC strongly recommends providers continue to follow guidance considered best practice for health and safety from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CT DPH:

 <p>Practice and teach frequent handwashing (for at least 20 seconds).</p>	 <p>Cover your mouth with your sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of soiled tissues immediately after use.</p>	 <p>Avoid touching the eyes, nose, or mouth with hands.</p>
 <p>Continue to keep groups of children in cohorts if possible to limit the impact and need for quarantines should a COVID-19 case arise.</p>	 <p>Continue enhanced health practices, including disinfection and sanitation, especially of high-touch areas, objects, and toys.</p>	 <p>Ask individuals coming to the program whether they've been in contact with a COVID-19 positive case in the past 14 days, or if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection (e.g., cough, sore throat, fever, or shortness of breath) each day.</p>

VENTILATION

Ventilation plays an important part in reducing the spread of disease.

- ◆ Understand your current system and adjust to optimize.
- ◆ Increase the amount of fresh air coming into the building either by adjusting mechanical systems or opening windows.
- ◆ For **buildings with central ventilation systems** (e.g., air conditioning), keep the system running when the building is occupied; do not make system control changes; change filters regularly.
- ◆ For **buildings without central ventilation systems or with areas not served by the system**:



Open windows to bring in fresh air.



Maximize fresh air intake into window air conditioning units.



Set blower fans on low speed, pointed away from people in the room.



Adjust ceiling fans so fins are drawing air up toward the ceiling.



Turn window fans to exhaust air out the window without blowing into walking paths.



Do not use fans that blow air into a room or only circulate air.



Separate, free-standing air cleaner or HEPA filter units are not recommended.

- Get Outside

- Two webinars (<https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/webinars/>) shared last year provide strategies to support fresh air indoors and increased activities outdoors
 - Risk Reduction in Child Care Programs — The Science and Art of Healthy Buildings (2/4/21)
 - Warm Attitudes about Cold Play (2/28/21)



**WHAT
WE
WILL
DISCUSS
TODAY:**

- licensing misconceptions vs regulations
- the value of cold weather outdoor play
- appropriate clothing and gear
- materials and equipment
- intentional teaching and learning
- positive attitudes about cold play

"I really love being human. But some days I really wish I could be fairy." ~ Greta, age 4



THANK YOU!

