

RESPONDING TO COVID-19 EXPOSURE IN CHILD CARE AND YOUTH CAMPS

Contact tracing helps to keep child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes, youth camps, and the community safer by identifying sources of exposure; and allows local health departments and other community partners to respond with appropriate actions to interrupt chains of transmission and prevent future infections.

When COVID-19 exposure happens in a child care program or camp, it is critical that the program be prepared for participation in contact tracing at the direction of the local health department. To support this process, the child care/youth camp provider should be prepared to:

- Name an individual to serve as a contact tracing lead to speak with the local health department.
- Ensure up-to-date contact information for staff and children.
- Have documentation of staff and children's attendance, staffing patterns, and daily group schedules readily available.
 - Determine if the child/staff member attended/worked at the program while symptomatic or during the two days before symptoms began.
 - Identify what days the child/staff member attended/worked during that time.
- Identify where, when, and with whom the individual had contact while at the program.
 - Determine who had close contact with the child/staff member during those days (staff and other children), meaning having spent at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 6 feet of the person who tested positive for COVID-19.

Exclude the children and staff members who had close contact with the affected child/staff member according to public health direction. Work with public health officials to determine messaging about exposure, need for quarantine and/or isolation, and closures.

For more information, consult the following CT State Department of Education resources:

- Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts:
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/Addendum-5-Interim-Guidance-for-Responding-to-COVID-19-Scenarios-in-CT-School-Districts.pdf>

OEC provides a sample COVID-19 Contact Tracing Checklist that corresponds to the guidance above, and outlines steps to take when a COVID-19 case is diagnosed in a child or staff member of the program:
<https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/OEC-COVID-19-Contact-Tracing-Checklist.pdf>



RECOMMENDATIONS



The following recommendations are advised:

- Provide information on testing and the link to the CT Testing Locator to families and staff.
- For information on testing, please visit the Connecticut COVID-19 Response site: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/COVID-19-Testing>
- To locate a testing location near you, please visit 2-1-1: https://www.211ct.org/search?terms=COVID-19%20Diagnostic%20Tests&page=1&location=Connecticut&taxonomy_code=11048&service_area=connecticut
- Encourage staff and families to respond to outreach from contact tracers to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Contact tracers will never reveal the identity of the individual who is COVID-19 positive.
- Provide notification to the local health department in the community where the COVID-19 positive individual lives if that is not the same town or city where the program is located.
- Conduct appropriate cleaning and disinfection:
 - Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas where the person who is sick has been.
 - Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before cleaning or disinfecting to allow respiratory droplets to settle.
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
 - If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
 - Continue enhanced routine cleaning and disinfection.

These guidelines and recommendations will continue to be updated in conjunction with decisions made with the Office of the Governor, CT Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information and FAQs, please visit

<https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/covid-19-frequently-asked-questions-faq> and https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/Community_Resources/Vaccinations/Print-Materials/Fact-Sheets/COVID_Rules_Vaccinated.pdf.

