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# COVID-19 Guidance For Childcare Programs

# Current CDC Guidelines

Isolation (Date of symptom onset or test is day 0)			
	Duration	Testing	Masking
Asymptomatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5-days</li><li>• On day 6, if case remains asymptomatic, they may end isolation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not recommended</li></ul>	Through the end of day-10 when around others, including household
Symptomatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5-days</li><li>• On day 6, if symptoms have improved and case has been fever-free for 24-hour, they may return to activities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not recommended</li></ul>	Through the end of day-10 when around others, including household

Please note, if a case is unable or unwilling to wear a mask through day-10 when around others, they should remain in isolation through the end of the day on day-10.

# Current CDC Guidelines

Quarantine (Last day of exposure to positive individual is day 0)			
	Duration	Testing	Masking
Up-To-Date Vaccinations or positive infection in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarantine Exempt if asymptomatic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended on day 5, if test is positive, follow isolation guidance</li> </ul>	Through the end of day-10 when around others, including household
Unvaccinated or out-of-date vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5-days</li> <li>If test on day 5 is negative, they may resume activities on day 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On day 5, if test is positive, follow isolation guidance</li> </ul>	Through the end of day-10 when around others, including household

Please note, if a case is unable or unwilling to wear a mask through day-10 when around others, they should remain in quarantine through the end of the day on day-10.

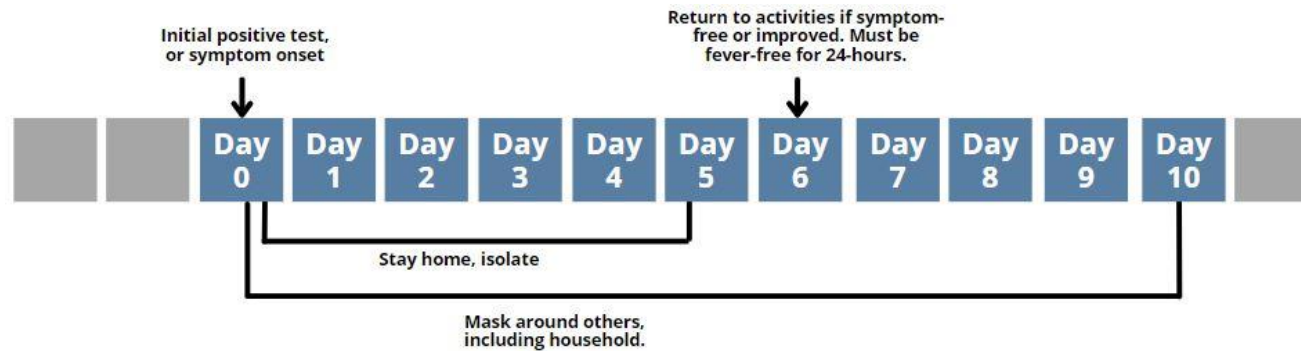
# Current EEC Guidelines

## Isolation (Date of symptom onset or test is day 0)

- Individual should stay home for 5 days
- After 5 days
  - **If they can mask**, they can go back to care on day 6 (test recommended, but not required)
  - **If they cannot mask**, test on day 5 or later
    - When they test negative, and they are asymptomatic or symptoms are subsiding, they can go back the day after the negative test, returning to care no later than day 11
    - **If they cannot test**, stay home for a total of 10-days, returning to care on day 11

# Isolation Scenario

- Child 1 developed symptoms on January 1 and tested positive the same day.



- Child 1 should isolate until the end of the day on January 6. If they are symptom free, they can return to care on January 7.
- If the child cannot mask in the classroom, they may have to continue isolation through the end of day 10.

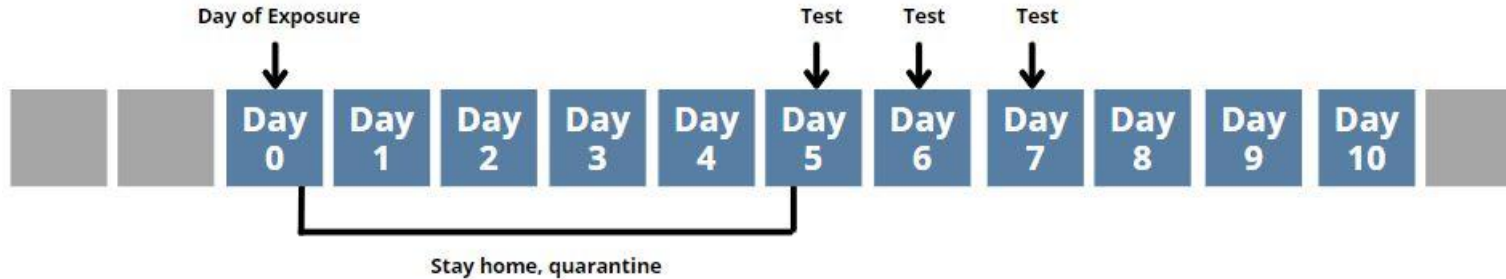
# Current EEC Guidelines

## Quarantine (Last day of exposure to positive individual is day 0)

- Individual should stay home for 5 days
- After 5 days
  - **If they can mask**, can go back to care on days 6 (test recommended, but not required)
  - **If they cannot mask**
    - **Test** on day 5, 6 and 7
      - If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving, and test negative, they can return to care on day 6, provided they continue to test negative before care on day 6 and 7
    - **If they cannot test**, stay home for 10-days, return to care on day 11

# Quarantine Scenario

- Child 1, who tested positive, was last in class on December 30. All close-contacts who were in class on December 30 should quarantine.



- The quarantined children are unable to mask at all times in the classroom.
- All children should test on January 4. Those negative can return to care on January 5th, so long as they test negative before care on January 5th and 6th

# EEC Exempt Close Contacts

*Per EEC guidance, the following categories are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols*

- Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated contacts
- Classroom Close Contacts\*: Exposed in the classroom while both individuals are mask, and 3+ feet apart
- Bus close contacts: Individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open
- Close contacts who have had COVID-19 in the last 90-days if:
  - The exposure happened within 90-days of their own illness AND
  - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms

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*\*EEC does not advise implementing these distancing requirements within early education and care settings due to the learning and developmental needs of young children.*

Information provided by Arlington Health and Human Services | Last Updated January 18, 2022



# Provider Inquiries

- EEC offers the following resources for support and navigation

Agency	Purpose of Inquiry	Email	Phone
Department of Early Education & Care	EEC regulatory questions, support with reopening & navigation of services	Office.Commissioners@mass.gov	Contact your licensor or regional licensing office for support: <a href="#">Locations</a>   <a href="#">Mass.gov</a>
Department of Public Health	Assistance with infectious disease response (including COVID-19.)	Childcare.Covid19@mass.gov	Epidemiologist Line: 617-983-6800 (this line is operational 24/7)

# Provider Responsibilities

- Develop internal policies following current CDC, DPH and EEC guidelines and recommendations
- Provide isolation and quarantine instructions to families
- Submit an Incident Report in LEAD on all COVID-related incidents that impact program operations

*Providers should consult internal policies, EEC, CDC and DPH guidance prior to contacting the Health Department. Due to current caseloads and COVID-19 demands, the Health Department may not be able to respond to questions about isolation and quarantine timelines in a timely manner.*

# COVID-19 Tests

- Molecular or PRC tests
  - Gold standard test
  - Detect genetic material of the virus
  - Higher level of sensitivity
  - Processed in a laboratory and may take 1-2 days for results
- Antigen/ Rapid testing
  - Less sensitive than PCR, especially for asymptomatic individuals
  - Detect proteins found on the virus
  - Acceptable method to end quarantine
  - Results take 15-20 minutes

# Where to Test

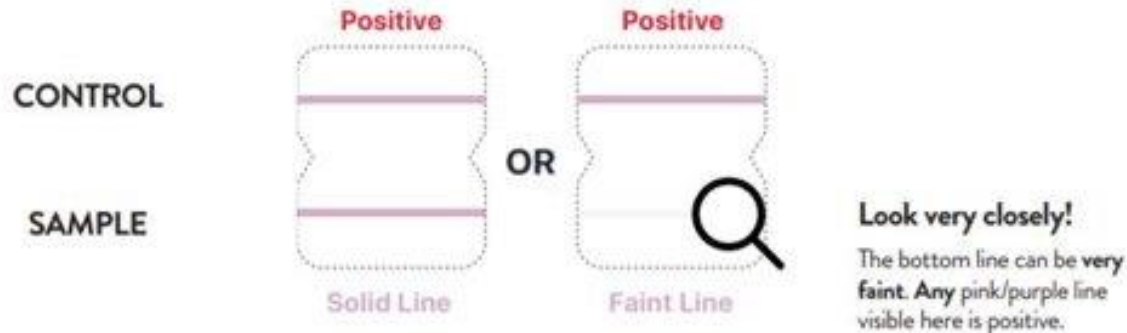
- PCR tests
  - Pharmacies, doctors offices, state-run testing sites
  - Locations can be found at [mass.gov/GetTested](https://mass.gov/GetTested)
- Antigen/Rapid Tests
  - At-home kits sold at pharmacies
  - Test sites listed at [mass.gov/GetTested](https://mass.gov/GetTested)
  - Arlington Town Hall, as available. When tests are available, dates and sign-up will be posted to [arlingtonma.gov/COVID19](https://arlingtonma.gov/COVID19)

# Interpreting Rapid Test Results

## Check for Positive COVID-19 Result

Find result window and look carefully for two pink/purple lines in window.

- **Positive Result:** Two pink/purple lines will appear. One on the top half and one on the bottom half. COVID-19 was detected.



Here are photos of actual positive tests. On the right, note how faint the bottom line can get.

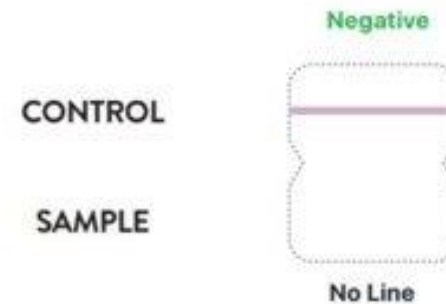


A positive test result for COVID-19 indicates that antigens from SARS-CoV-2 were detected, and the patient is very likely to be infected with the virus and presumed to be contagious. Test results should always be considered in the context of clinical observations and epidemiological data (such as local prevalence rates and current outbreak/epicenter locations) in making a final diagnosis and patient management decisions. Patient management should follow current CDC guidelines.

## Check for Negative COVID-19 Result

Find result window and look for a single pink/purple line in window.

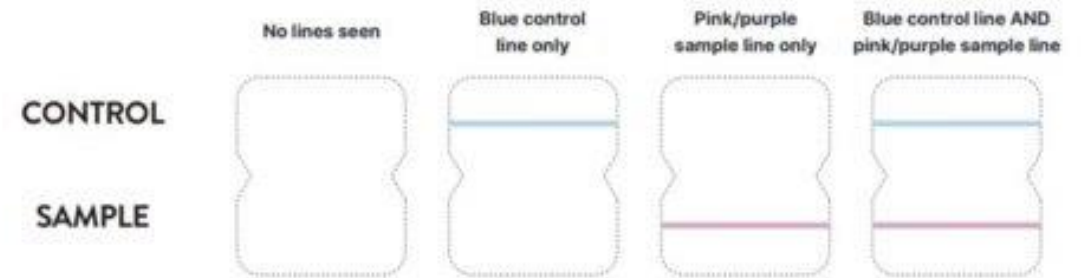
- **Negative Result:** A single pink/purple line on the top half where it says "Control." COVID-19 was not detected.



A negative test result for this test means that antigens from SARS-CoV-2 were not present in the specimen above the limit of detection. However, a negative result does not rule out COVID-19 and should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or patient management decisions, including infection control decisions. The amount of antigen in a sample may decrease as the duration of illness increases. Negative results should be treated as presumptive and confirmed with a molecular assay, if necessary, for patient management.

## Check for Invalid Result

- If you see any of these, the test is invalid.



*Note: Tests may vary by manufacturer. Please consult test instructions for assistance interpreting results. The images listed are from a BinaNOW Rapid Antigen Test.*

# FAQ

- **Q. A family member of a student tested positive, what should we do?**
  - A. The child must quarantine. The last day of the family members isolation will be day 0 or the start student's quarantine. If the child tests negative on day 5 of their quarantine, they may follow testing guidance to return on day 6.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31 Parent Tests Positive, Isolates	1	2 Parent Isolates, Child quarantines	3	4	5 Parents symptoms resolve, follows strict masking. Child's day 0
6	7	8 Parent masks, Child quarantines	9	10 Child tests negative	11 Child tests negative, return to care	12 Child tests negative, return to care
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

# FAQ

- **Q. A teacher or student tested positive, what should we do?**
  - If a student or teacher tests positive within 48-hours of their last day in care, close contacts will need to be informed and provided quarantine instructions. Anyone who fits in a "quarantine exempt" category can remain in care.

# FAQ

- **Q. The child is symptomatic, and a rapid test came back negative, can they return to care.**
  - A. If available, the symptomatic individual may want to follow up with a PCR test. The child should not return to care until their symptoms have improved or resolved. They must be fever-free for 24-hours.
- **Q. A child tests positive more than 48-hours after their last time in class, do we have to quarantine the classroom.**
  - A. If the child is asymptomatic, no students need to quarantine. If they child developed symptoms within 48 hours of their last time in class, the classroom would need to quarantine.