

Memo

DATE: September 8, 2020

TO: Schools, local public health, and other stakeholders

FROM: Minnesota Department of Health

SUBJECT: Guidance Clarification for the COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs

This communication is related to the COVID-19 Schools and Child Care Training that was done September 2-5, 2020. The Minnesota Department of Health has a clarification of the recommendations for when children need to stay home or be excluded from school or child care if someone in their household is being tested for COVID-19 or waiting for test results. Please use the following as your guidance in these situations. This clarification does not apply to children who are a close contact of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, or who are getting tested or waiting for their own test results. Children in these situations must not attend school or child care.

Clarification

If someone in a household is **asymptomatic (does not have symptoms of COVID-19)** and is being tested for COVID-19, the other children not being tested do not need to stay home or be excluded from school or child care.

If someone in a household is **symptomatic (has symptoms of COVID-19)** and is being tested, all children should stay home (do not attend school or child care) until test results are known.

- If the test result is negative, children can return to school or child care.
- If the test result is positive, children should remain at home and begin a 14 day quarantine period starting on the last day they were in close contact with the person who has COVID-19. If the child cannot be separated from the household member with COVID-19, their 14 day quarantine period starts after their household member is no longer in isolation. A person with COVID-19 can be released from isolation when all three of these things are true:
 - They feel better (symptoms have improved)
 - and**
 - It has been 10 days since they first felt sick (or since they were tested if no symptoms)
 - and**

GUIDANCE CLARIFICATION: COVID-19 DECISION TREE FOR PEOPLE IN SCHOOLS,
YOUTH, AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

- They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fevers

This guidance will be added to the [COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf) on the MDH website soon.

Please share with your stakeholders and groups. Additional questions can be directed to: health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us.



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Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format.