Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Persons with COVID-19-like Illness in Schools, Child Care Programs, and Youth Camps

For the purposes of this decision aid, COVID-19-like illness is defined as: Any 1 of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, OR At least 2 of the following: fever of 100.4°F or higher (measured or subjective), chills or shaking chills, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and congestion or runny nose.

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with 1 new symptom not meeting the definition of COVID-19-like illness.

Exclude person and allow return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met as applicable. If person develops symptoms of COVID-19-like illness, follow processes below for person with COVID-19-like illness.

An asymptomatic person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) who tests positive for COVID-19 (confirmed case).

Close contacts should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.

If the ill person is still suspected of having COVID-19, close contacts should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.

If COVID-19 is not suspected, close contacts DO NOT need to stay home as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19-like illness:

- Exclude person and recommend that they talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19 or whether there is another specific diagnosis (e.g., influenza, strep throat, otitis) or a pre-existing condition that explains symptoms.
- The ill person should isolate pending test results or evaluation by their health care provider.
- If the ill person is a probable case of COVID-19 (e.g., COVID-19-like illness and close contact with a person with COVID-19), close contacts of the ill person should quarantine.

The ill person has a positive rapid antigen test or RT-PCR for COVID-19 (confirmed case).

The ill person should stay home for 10 days from positive test.

The ill person has a negative rapid antigen test for COVID-19 without a confirmatory RT-PCR.

The ill person should stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.

The ill person does not receive a test for COVID-19 or another specific diagnosis by their health care provider.

The ill person should stay home for 14 days and talk to their health care provider to determine if COVID-19 is still suspected and if another test is needed.

The ill person has a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19 AND had close contact with a person with COVID-19.

The ill person should stay home until symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met as applicable.

The ill person has a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19 and NO close contact with a person with COVID-19.

If symptoms do not improve, the ill person should talk to their health care provider to determine if they should be tested/retested for COVID-19.

The asymptomatic person (confirmed case) should stay home for 10 days from positive test.

Health care provider documents that the ill person has another specific diagnosis OR that symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition AND the ill person had NO close contact with a person with COVID-19.

Close contacts of the ill person DO NOT need to stay home as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Maryland Department of Health and Maryland State Department of Education, November 13, 2020