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## **Child Care Providers COVID 19 FAQ Screening and Attendance/Exclusion**

**I am a childcare provider and am looking for some guidance on how I should modify my regular practices related to deciding about issues related to attendance and illness.**

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has issued the following guidance to help childcare providers make decisions that affect their individual setting. Recognizing that conditions and circumstances change daily, we will continue to encourage providers to reach out to your local public health unit or the NDDoH at 1-866-207-2880 if you have additional questions.

### **COVID-19 case or cases in North Dakota, but not identified in your community**

The NDDoH does not recommend childcare closures if cases are not occurring in your community. Childcare settings should follow [CDC guidance](#) regarding preparing for COVID-19. Guidance includes monitoring absenteeism, keeping sick children out, ensuring handwashing, environmental cleaning, communicating with parents, etc.

### **COVID-19 case(s) identified in your community, but not in your childcare**

The NDDoH does not recommend childcare closures if ongoing community spread is not identified in your community. Childcares should follow [CDC guidance](#) regarding preparing for COVID-19. Guidance includes monitoring absenteeism, keeping sick children out, ensuring handwashing, environmental cleaning, communicating with parents, etc.

### **COVID-19 spread in your community, but no cases in your childcare**

The NDDoH may recommend childcare settings close in an effort to reduce spread in the community. The NDDoH will work with employers and community leaders to provide guidance.

### **COVID-19 case(s) in your childcare**

If there is a COVID-19 case in your childcare setting, the NDDoH will notify the facility. If a childcare is made aware of a COVID-19 case prior to being contacted by the NDDoH, please report the case to the NDDoH at 1-800-472-2180 or 701-328-2378.

The NDDoH **may** recommend that a childcare close for at least 72 hours following a confirmed case (in an employee or child). 72 hours allows the NDDoH to conduct

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contact tracing and make recommendations for which close contacts should be quarantined and excluded from the childcare. This time period also allows the childcare to conduct extensive [environmental cleaning](#).

The confirmed case of COVID-19 must be excluded from childcare for ten days after onset of symptoms **and** be fever free for 72 hours (without the use of fever reducing medications) **and** have improvement of respiratory symptoms, whichever is longer. The NDDoH will provide just-in-time guidance to the childcare and the case or case's parents.

Close contacts to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be quarantined (must stay home) for 14 days from their last exposure to a case. A close contact is defined as someone who is within six feet of a confirmed case for 15 minutes or greater. It may also be someone who is directly coughed on or exposed to a case's secretions. Close contacts will be identified by the NDDoH during the investigation. In a childcare setting, close contacts to a case are often staff and children in the same room as a case. This often means that certain rooms in a childcare have to be closed for 14 days. If staff or children are in multiple rooms (float), then this may mean the entire childcare has to close for 14 days.

Specific rooms or childcares may have to close again if additional cases occur in a childcare after a room or childcare reopens. The guidance described above for when a case occurs in a childcare would start over.

### **COVID-19 close contact(s) in your childcare**

Children or staff who are identified as close contacts to a confirmed case of COVID-19 must be excluded from the childcare facility until 14 days after their last known exposure to the case. Close contacts will be identified by the NDDoH and informed to stay home.

If a parent tests positive, the child should stay out of childcare for at least 14 days (may be longer depending on how long the parent is contagious). Public health authorities will advise the parent as to how long the child will need to be removed from childcare.

If a parent is a contact to someone confirmed to be positive for COVID-19 (case), then the children may still attend childcare if they did not have direct contact to a case.

### **Exclusion of ill employees or children in your childcare**

In addition to [general infectious disease exclusion criteria](#), childcares should exclude ill employees or children who meeting the following criteria:

Fever of 100.4° F **OR** two or more of the following symptoms: fatigue, muscle aches, cough, sore throat, runny nose, and sneezing, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain **OR** loss of taste and/or smell.

Employees and children need to be excluded until either (1) tested negative for COVID-

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19 **OR** (2) diagnosed by a health care provider with another illness that does not require [exclusion](#) **OR** (3) for 10 days from onset **AND** fever-free for 72 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications) **AND** symptoms are improving, whichever is longer.

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