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Dear Child Care and Camp Provider,

We understand the difficulty of making well-informed, family–friendly decisions and policies related to children’s attendance in your programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The following guidance clarification on symptomatic children and program attendance from the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services may assist you in these efforts:

Anybody who meets any of the following criteria should be excluded from child care or camp:

1. Any ***new or unexplained*** [symptoms of COVID-19](#); this includes even mild symptoms, such as a runny nose (these individuals are asked to “[self-isolate](#)”).
2. Close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the prior 14 days (these individuals are asked to “[self-quarantine](#)”).
3. Reports a travel-related risk factor as identified on the daily screening questions for travel (these individuals are also asked to “[self-quarantine](#)”).

Child care programs and camps should document and verify with parents/guardians and healthcare providers before the start of child care or program attendance if a child has any chronic health conditions and the typical symptoms of the health condition. This should be performed through any required health exam for program enrollment. If a student presents with symptoms, and it is unclear (or undocumented in the child’s medical record) if the symptoms are chronic, then the student should be excluded until they have met the return to program criteria, or a healthcare provider can document a chronic/stable condition that accounts for the student’s symptoms and that there are not any new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19. For example, a child with a chronic allergy condition where their nose runs frequently could be permitted to stay in the program, as long as the child is excluded if their symptoms require exclusion under licensing rules.

Isolation:

Any person with new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 can be allowed to return to child care or camp when one of the following two conditions is met:

1. Person receives an approved COVID-19 test that is negative, AND the person’s symptoms are improving and they are fever-free for at least 24 hours off any fever-reducing medications.

Approved tests include:

- A PCR-based molecular test
- Quidel Sofia Antigen FIA test is conducted within 5 days of symptom onset

2. Person has met CDC [criteria for ending of home isolation](#) (i.e., if person is not tested, they are managed assuming they have COVID-19). This means the person must self-isolate until at least 10 day have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND at least 1 day (24 hours) has passed where the person is without fever (off any fever reducing medications) and other symptoms are improving.

If someone tests positive for COVID-19 (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic), they must follow the CDC [criteria for ending of home isolation](#).

Quarantine:

Persons reporting close contact with someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 must [self-quarantine](#) for 14 days. An exposed individual is unable to “test out” of quarantine because it can take up to 14 days from an exposure for someone to develop COVID-19.

The current recommendation from the NH DHHS [General and Employee Travel Guidance](#) is that those who have traveled outside of New England need to [self-quarantine](#) and monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days upon their return to New Hampshire. Please check the [General and Employee Travel Guidance](#) for future updates. We strongly suggest you make parents aware of these guidelines before they opt to take a vacation that might impact their ability to send their child to child care or camp.

We encourage you to reach out to the NH Division of Public Health Services at (603) 271-4496 for further advice or direction, as they are the experts who may assist you with your specific COVID-19-related situation. You may also access many helpful resources, including COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions at the NH DHHS COVID-19 website: <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/index.htm>.

Further, please consider it good business practice to make parents aware in advance and in writing your policies around COVID-19 and other program health and attendance policies.

We sincerely appreciate all the work you are doing to support New Hampshire children and families.

Sincerely,



Debra Nelson, Bureau Chief