

COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria (Updated 2/22/2021)

The following is a supplement to Verner's 2020-2021 Exclusion Criteria which can be found in the Family Handbook and Routine Exclusion Criteria.

Routine Exclusion Criteria

- Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities;
- Results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children;
- Poses a risk of spread of harmful diseases to others.

COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria

People with COVID-19 report a wide range of symptoms from no symptoms and mild to severe illness.

The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Requires Exclusion	Does not require immediate exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever (100.4°F+) • Chills • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • New cough • New loss of taste or smell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea or vomiting/Diarrhea • Fatigue • Muscle or body aches • Headache

*The more narrow set of COVID-19 symptoms listed to the left reflects required exclusionary symptoms in order to avoid over-exclusion, per NCDHHS Guidance for Child Care.

The following guidance is based on the [ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit](#). There may be additional situations/scenarios that will be addressed on a case by case basis, in consultation with health care professionals and the Buncombe County Health Department.

Exclusion Category	Scenario	When can Child/Staff Return?
Person with symptoms of COVID-19 - Fever (100.4°F+) - Chills - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing - New cough - New loss of taste or smell	Symptomatic person has been diagnosed with or tested positive for COVID-19.	Person can answer yes to ALL three questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has it been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared? • Has it been at least 3 days since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)? • Have the person's symptoms, including cough and shortness of breath, been improving for at least 3 days?
	Symptomatic person has not been tested or seen by a healthcare provider.	
	Symptomatic person has been seen by a health care provider and received an alternate diagnosis* that would explain the symptoms and the health care provider determined that testing is not needed. Written documentation required.	Once person returning can answer yes to both questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has it been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever without the use of fever reducing medicines? • Has the person felt well for at least the past 24 hours? <p style="text-align: center;">* Doctor's Note Required*</p>
	Symptomatic person tests negative for COVID-19 with a PCR test.	
	Symptomatic person tests negative for COVID-19 with an antigen (rapid) test and health care provider provides	

	written documentation that person may return to school and no further testing is needed.	
Person tests positive for COVID-19	A person tests positive for COVID-19 , but does not develop symptoms .	10 days from the person's first positive test. *However, if the person develops symptoms of COVID-19 after their positive test, they must be able to answer yes to ALL three questions listed above.
Exposure *Close contact: within 6ft for 15min	Person is a close contact of someone diagnosed with COVID-19.	After the person has completed the 14 days of quarantine at home. They must complete the full 14 days of quarantine even if they test negative. *However, if the person tests positive or develops COVID-19 symptoms, return to child care must follow criteria above.
	Person is a household member of someone diagnosed with COVID-19.	Person can return to child care after completing up to 14 days of quarantine. The quarantine time clock begins at the end of the 10-day isolation of the person with COVID-19.
	Child is a household member of someone in quarantine because of COVID-19 exposure.	Person can return to child care after household member has completed quarantine without developing any symptoms.
Household member (e.g. a sibling) with symptoms or exposure	Person is a household member of someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been tested or seen by a healthcare provider . Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive.	Person can return to child care after completing up to 14 days of quarantine. Because COVID-19 was not ruled out, presumption is that the person may remain infectious for up to 10 days after symptom onset. The quarantine time clock begins at the end of this 10-day isolation period.
	Person is a household member of someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 but has been seen by a health care provider and received an alternate diagnosis* that would explain the symptoms and the health care provider determined that testing is not needed.	Person can return to child care when household member receives their alternate diagnosis.
	Symptomatic person tests negative for COVID-19 with a PCR test .	Person can return to child care when household member receives negative test results.
	Symptomatic person tests negative for COVID-19 with an antigen (rapid) test and health care provider provides written documentation that person may return to school and no further testing is needed.	
* Alternate diagnosis - must explain the symptoms of fever, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough or new loss of taste or smell, and the health care provider has determined COVID-19 testing is not needed.		