COVID-19 and Testing: For Child Care Settings

About COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- Symptoms can range from mild or no symptoms to severe illness.
- You can get sick with COVID-19 by coming into close contact with a person who has COVID-19. Close contacts are defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before their illness started until the time the person separates themselves from other people. A person is contagious as early as 48 hours before symptoms appear.
- **Learn more on the Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 website.**

COVID-19 in Child Care Settings

- If a child care setting has a confirmed case of COVID-19, child care providers and classrooms or groups identified as close contacts must stay at home for 14 days (this is called quarantine) from date they were last in contact with the sick person, regardless of whether they are tested and/or the results of the test.

Testing

- If a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified in a child care setting, identified close contacts of the case will be notified by the child care. Classrooms and/or cohorts of children identified as close contacts will be asked to stay home for 14 days from date of last known exposure. Routine or universal testing of staff and attendees should never be used to determine if someone can enter or enroll in a program.
- The state has organized a contract with a saliva testing lab to ensure that all child care providers exposed to COVID-19 due to their job and are not able to access testing in their community, have a mail-order test available.

Testing is recommended for:

- Anyone with **symptoms**. Children, staff, and family members with symptoms should get tested as soon as possible.
- Asymptomatic contacts. Children and staff who are close contacts of someone confirmed to have COVID-19 should be tested (including home residents in family child care settings). Testing should occur no sooner than 5 to 7 days after exposure or at any point if symptoms develop.

Get tested

- **Find information on COVID-19 testing and locations.**
- Child care settings with 50+ close contacts. Child care settings that have 50 or more close contacts requiring testing should consider hosting a testing event. Contact the **Minnesota Testing Workgroup** for assistance.

Testing costs

- The State of Minnesota offers programs and resources that can help support family health insurance coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Health insurance is required to cover testing at no cost to patients when a health care provider recommends it. Call you insurer with any specific questions about your coverage.
- Uninsured Minnesotans can receive free testing when providers seek state or federal reimbursement. Ask your health care provider for the free COVID-19 testing application to submit for state or federal reimbursement.
- **Eligible families can enroll in Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare at any time**. Get free enrollment assistance by calling 651-539-2099 or 855-366-7873 and **MNsure's online help tools**.

The Children's Cabinet is available to help support you and navigate concerns, including if your staff or families experience testing challenges. Contact 651-259-3636 or childrenscabinet.mmb@state.mn.us.