CHILD CARE FACTSHEET

Guidelines and Recommendations for COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

As we move through our COVID-19 response, here are some considerations and guidelines from Vilas County Public Health Department for child care providers.

Considerations for Preventing the Transmission of COVID-19 in Child Care Centers

- Consider limiting access to your program
    - Limiting entrance into the building
    - Limiting exposure of vulnerable individuals, both staff and guardians
- Consider implementing a health screening at entry
    - The Department of Children and Families has samples
- Integrate group spacing strategies
- Implement drop-off/pick-up procedures that minimize contact
- Assure meal/snack time practices minimize contact
- Whenever possible, employees should wear face coverings
- Increase sanitation and hygiene practices

COVID-19 EXPOSURE, SYMPTOMS, AND POSITIVE TESTS

I.   **Children, staff, or parents of children with COVID-19 or symptoms**

If an enrolled child or employee tests positive for COVID-19 and your center is identified as a potential place of exposure, Vilas County Public Health Department will contact you. They will walk you through your next steps.

II.   **Allowing a child or staff member to return to a child care facility after suspected COVID-19 symptoms**

If an enrolled child or employee has symptoms of COVID-19 or is a close contact of someone with COVID-19, consider which of these scenarios most closely aligns to them, and follow the written guidance for that scenario.

Scenario 1: I have a child or staff member who develops symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste and smell) while at the facility:

- Immediately separate the person from others until the person displaying symptoms can leave the facility. We encourage you to call their parent or guardian and have them picked up as soon as possible.
- Advise the employee or child's parent or caregiver to inform the facility immediately if the person is diagnosed with COVID-19
- The child should stay home and away from others until 3 days (72 hours) after the fever is gone and symptoms get better
    - If the person's symptoms worsen, they should contact their healthcare provider to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19
- If the person tests positive for COVID-19, Vilas County Health Department will contact you.
    - The positive case must remain out of the facility for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND at least 24 hours have passed since the person has not had a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms

Scenario 2: I have an asymptomatic staff or student that is reporting a potential contact exposure to someone with COVID-19 or a potential contact exposure to someone with suspected COVID-19 symptoms:

- The person should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, and take daily temperature
- The person can continue to attend the facility, and follow routine COVID-19 safety precautions as previously described
- The person must notify a supervisor immediately if any symptoms develop, and isolate immediately if symptoms develop while at child care program
- The facility should continue with cleaning and disinfecting protocols.
- In this scenario, there is no need for closures, or to notify Vilas County Health Department

Scenario 3: I have a staff or student who has had close contact (as defined as being within 6 feet of the positive case for more than 15 minutes) with someone with confirmed COVID-19:

- The person should remain out of the facility until it has been 14 days since their last exposure to the person with COVID-19
- The person should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, and get tested if testing is available
- The facility should continue with cleaning and disinfecting protocols
- In this scenario, there is no need for closures, or to notify Vilas County Health Department

Scenario 4: I have a staff or student who got tested and is confirmed to have COVID-19:

- The individual must remain out of the facility for a minimum of 10 days after the onset of first symptoms
- They may return after the minimum of 10 days AND also meeting one of the following conditions:
    - If the individual is not using a COVID-19 test for clearance, and they had a fever: Must be fever free for at least 24 hours AND there is an improvement in their initial symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste and smell)
    - If the individual is not using a COVID-19 test for clearance and they did not have a fever: at least 24 hours after they see an improvement in their initial symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)

- If the individual is using a COVID-19 test for clearance, they must no longer have a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers) AND have improvement of other symptoms (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved) AND receive two negative tests in a row, 24 hours apart
- If the individual did not have any symptoms, they may return 10 days after their test sample was collected
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Vilas County Health Department recommend using a symptom-based strategy for returning to work or daycare, not a test-based strategy

III.   Positive cases of COVID-19 in children and/or staff – facility protocols

If there is a case of COVID-19 among children or staff, programs should consider whether a short-term (less than one week) or long-term (two weeks or more) closure will allow for sufficient cleaning and disinfection. Vilas County Public Health Department can also use this time to trace close contacts of the case and determine if others could be at risk. Advantages of long-term closures must be weighed against the economic burden placed on staff and children's families, loss of key members of the workforce, and impacts on learning. If local closures are pursued because of community transmission, the geographic extent of closures should be informed by local data.