



# QUICK REFERENCE FOR CHILD CARE: MONITORING AND RESPONDING TO COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

**Providers should strictly enforce their sick policy, especially during flu season.**

## **When should a sick child stay home?**

The presence of any of the symptoms below generally suggests a child has an infectious illness and should not attend child care, regardless of whether the illness is COVID-19. For students with chronic conditions, a positive screening should represent a change from their typical health status.

- ▶ Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or above.
- ▶ Vomiting or diarrhea.
- ▶ Sore throat.
- ▶ Cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline).
- ▶ New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.
- ▶ Difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing).

Providers should encourage families to contact their healthcare provider or follow up with a local clinic/urgent care before returning to care.

## **When should a sick staff member stay home?**

Staff members should stay home, or be sent home, if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms not explained by a known or diagnosed medical conditions:

**ONE** of the following:

- ▶ Fever of 100.4 degrees or above
- ▶ Shortness of breath
- ▶ Uncontrolled cough

**OR TWO** of the following:

- ▶ Diarrhea
- ▶ Loss of taste or smell
- ▶ Muscle aches without another explanation
- ▶ Severe headache
- ▶ Sore throat
- ▶ Vomiting
- ▶ Chills

## **When should children and staff stay home?**

**Staff and Children Should also Stay Home if They:**

- ▶ Are in quarantine due to exposure to an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or
- ▶ Have other signs of illness described in a provider's sick policy.