

Heartland Head Start COVID-19 Guidance

Signs of Illness

- Any child who begins to display any signs of illness will be evaluated by the Teaching Team. The Health Manager or Education Manager can assist as needed to confirm symptoms. If those staff members are not available, the TI will make an evaluation and contact the Health and Education Managers.
 - **Signs of illness include, but are not limited to:** fever, cough, fatigue, runny nose etc. (See Exclusion of Sick Children for full list)
- If the children's symptoms may indicate signs of illness, especially symptoms identified with COVID-19, the parent or legal guardian will be contacted and asked to pick up the child immediately. The child may not ride the bus home.
- If the parent or legal guardian is not reached, the contacts in the child's Emergency Card will be contacted.
- Staff members will not be allowed to transport a child that displays symptoms.

If a child displays symptoms of COVID-19, one of the following must be met for the child to return:

- A negative COVID-19 test must be submitted and the child's symptoms have improved, including being fever-free without medication for **24 hours**.

OR

- Written documentation is provided by the physician stating an alternate diagnosis and that the child may return to childcare. Child must be fever-free for **24 hours** and have improved symptoms.
 - ***If children have chronic conditions such as allergies that mirror COVID-19 symptoms, a doctor's note can be kept on file stating that the child is safe to attend if symptoms persist.***

Parents must inform their FRA or PCE of all absences related to illness or COVID-19 and send documentation of negative tests/doctors notes to the FRA/PCE prior to their return. Staff must send all information to the Health Manager for recordkeeping.



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Positive COVID-19 Case

- If a child tests positive for COVID-19, the FRA/Teaching Staff will collaborate to provide a list of any close contacts at HHS, people within 6 feet of the child for a cumulative of 15 minutes up to 24 hours prior to the onset of their illness, to the Health Manager, Education Manager and Human Resource Department.
- All close contacts will be contacted immediately and asked to follow the close contact guidance below.
- DCFS and the local health department will be informed of all positive COVID-19 cases in HHS classrooms.
- The child is required to stay at home and quarantine for 10 days starting from the date they began to show symptoms or the date of their positive test. The child may return after completing the 10-day quarantine period, been fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, and their symptoms have improved.

Close Contact

- Any child with close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 shall be excluded from the classroom for 14 days after their last day of contact, monitored for symptoms, and have a COVID-19 test 5 to 7 days after exposure.
 - ***If a child lives in the same household as a person who tests positive for COVID-19 and is not able to isolate from them at home, their 14-day quarantine period will begin after the positive person's 10-day isolation period has ended.***
- A child may return to school after completing the 14-day quarantine, pending they do not show any symptoms of COVID-19 during their 14-day period.
- If the child tests positive for COVID-19 after being identified as a close contact, they must quarantine for 10 days starting from the onset of symptoms or the date of the COVID-19 test (if symptoms do not occur). Child may return after completing the 10-day period, being fever-free for at least 24 hours, and symptoms have improved.

