



Dear Early Childhood Education and Childcare Providers,

The CDC updated guidance on COVID-19, including shortened isolation and quarantine periods for the general population, and recently published updates for isolation and quarantine [protocols for Early Childhood Education \(ECE\)](#) schools and programs. Many ECE programs serve young children who may not be eligible for vaccination or able to wear masks consistently. Layered mitigation strategies are highly recommended, including universal indoor masking for those ages 2 years and older.

Additionally, as of February 2, 2022 the Pima County Health Department recommends the following for children in ECE programs:

If a child *tests positive* for COVID-19:

- **Stay home ([isolate](#))**
- Children without symptoms who are older than 2 years of age and able to consistently wear a mask may return to the ECE program after 5 days. Masking is required for 5 additional days.
- Children who have symptoms can end isolation after 5 days if they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, other symptoms have improved, and they are able to consistently wear a mask for 5 additional days.
- Children who are unable to consistently wear a mask when around others (including all children under 2 years of age) should continue to isolate for 10 full days.

If a child came into [close contact](#) to someone with COVID-19:

- Infants and children who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19, should [quarantine](#).
- Children without symptoms, who are older than 2 years of age and able to consistently wear a mask may return to the ECE program after 5 days. Masking is required for 5 additional days.
- Children who are unable to consistently wear a mask when around others (including all children under 2 years of age) continue to quarantine for 10 full days.
- Children who are [fully vaccinated](#), or who have had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not need to quarantine, but should mask around others for 10 days.
- Children may test on or after day 5. If test result is positive, child should follow recommend isolation guidance outlined above.

We continue to work with state and federal partners as ECE-specific guidance is reviewed, updated, and created. We will communicate changes to you as policies evolve. We appreciate your partnership in helping to keep our school community safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Theresa Cullen, MD, MS
Pima County Health Department
Public Health Director

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A Healthy Pima County
Every one. Every where. Every day.