



Isolation and Discharge of Sick Children and Staff

1. **Planning for Isolation and Discharge:** North Reading Recreation will take the following actions to prepare for a potential exposure.
 - a. Designate a separate space to isolate children or staff who may become sick, with the door closed (or a solid barrier) if possible. Isolated children must be supervised at all times. A private or separate bathroom must be made available for use by sick individuals only. Others must not enter an isolation room/space without PPE appropriate to the care setting. A location with an open window and/or good air circulation is optimal. In family child care settings with one adult, staff should isolate children who may become sick using a barrier to maintain adequate supervision of all children.
 - b. If one of our facilities does not have designated isolation rooms/spaces, we will determine a pre-specified location/facility to which you will be sending patients presenting with COVID-19 symptoms.
 - c. Have an emergency back-up plan for staff coverage in case a child or staff becomes sick.
 - d. Know the contact information for the local board of health in the city or town in which the program is located.
 - e. Have masks and other cloth face coverings available for use by children and staff who become symptomatic, until they have left the premises of the program.
 - f. Designate a separate exit from the exit used to regularly exit for those being discharged due to suspected infection.

2. **If a Child Becomes Symptomatic:** If a child becomes symptomatic, North Reading Recreation will follow the protocols below:
 - a. Immediately isolate from other children and minimize exposure to staff.
 - b. Whenever possible, cover children's (age 2 and older) noses and mouths with a mask or cloth face covering.
 - c. Contact the child's parents and send home as soon as possible.
 - d. Follow the program's plan for the transportation of a child who has developed symptoms and who relies on program transportation.

3. **If a Staff Becomes Symptomatic:** If a staff member becomes symptomatic, they must cease child care duties immediately and be removed from others until they can leave. Staff must regularly self-monitor during the day to screen for new symptoms. If new symptoms are detected among a staff member, follow the requirements above in Section 1A-B on how to handle symptomatic individuals.

4. **If a Child or Staff Contracts COVID-19:** Sick children or employees who are COVID-19 positive or symptomatic and presumed to have COVID-19 must not return until they have met the criteria for discontinuing home isolation and have consulted with a health care provider. Determine the date of symptom onset for the child/staff. Determine if the child/staff attended/worked at the program while symptomatic or during the two days before symptoms began. Identify what days the child/staff attended/worked during that time. Determine who had close contact with the child/staff at the program during those days (staff and other children).
 - a. If the individual tests positive for COVID-19 but is asymptomatic, isolation may be discontinued when at least 10 days have passed from the date of the positive test, as long as the individual remains asymptomatic. For example, if the individual was tested on April 1, isolation may be discontinued on or after April 11.

5. **Notifying Required Parties:** In the event that a program experiences an exposure, North Reading Recreation will notify the following parties.
 - a. Employees and families about exposure but maintain confidentiality.
 - b. Local board of health if a child or staff is COVID-19 positive.
 - c. Funding and licensing agencies if a child or staff member has tested positive.

6. **Self-Isolating Following Exposure or Potential Exposure:** In the event that a staff member or child is exposed to a sick or symptomatic person, the following protocols will be followed.
 - a. If a child or staff has been exposed to COVID-19, regardless of whether the individual has symptoms or not, the child or staff must not be permitted to enter the program space and must be sent home. Exposed individuals will be directed to stay home for at least 14 days after the last day of contact with the person who is sick. The program will consult the local board of health for guidance on quarantine for other children and staff and what additional precautions will be needed to ensure the program space is safe for continued child care services.
 - b. If an exposed child or staff subsequently tests positive or their doctor says they have confirmed or probable COVID-19, they must be directed to stay home for a minimum of 10 days from the 1st day of symptoms appearing AND be fever-free for 72 hours without fever reducing medications AND experience significant improvements in symptoms. Release from isolation is under the jurisdiction of the local board of health where the individual resides.
 - c. If a child's or staff's household member tests positive for COVID-19, the child or staff must self-quarantine for 14 days after the last time they could have been exposed.

If an Exposed Child or Staff Remains Asymptomatic and/or Tests Negative for COVID-19: If the exposed individual remains asymptomatic and/or tests negative for COVID-19, they must remain in quarantine and continue to monitor for the full 14 days.