

Dear Families,

The health and safety of our children, their families, our staff, and the local community is of utmost importance to us. This is an unprecedented time and our understanding of COVID-19 is constantly evolving.

We are writing to notify you that a child or employee at our center has tested positive for COVID-19. In accordance with the Health Authority Rules issued August 14, 2020, our center has notified Austin Public Health and we are taking all the recommended steps to ensure the safety of our children, families, and staff.

After reviewing our specific circumstances with the public health professionals at APH, we have established a plan of action. Please see the information below for specific instructions for your child.

NO ACTION: Your child HAS NOT been identified as a close contact to the COVID-19 positive individual. Quarantine is not required at this time. Please continue to monitor your child for signs and symptoms as usual and consult with your healthcare provider if you have further questions.

QUARANTINE: Your child HAS been identified as a close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual. Your child will need to stay home and quarantine for 14 days from the last date of contact with the COVID-19 positive individual. Please contact your healthcare provider for further guidance.

Beginning date of quarantine for your child

Earliest date your child is able to return

ISOLATE: Your child will need to stay home and isolate for 10 days from the start of their symptoms and/or test date, if they did not have symptoms. Please contact your healthcare provider for further guidance.

Beginning date of isolation for your child

Earliest date your child is able to return

We are required by law to protect the privacy of all individuals and are not allowed to release the names and/or test results of individuals. We understand that you may have questions and we will keep you informed of any new developments. We ask that you let us know if your child or other members of your household either test positive for COVID-19 or have any symptoms of COVID-19. The following websites have helpful information on COVID-19.

We know that these temporary changes may present a hardship for you, but the safety of our children, staff, and community is a top priority. We hope that our families understand our commitment to safety, as our goal is to be a strong resource to you for the long-term.

We thank you for your understanding during these challenging times. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

The following websites have helpful information on COVID-19 and testing resources.

Center for Disease Control- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>


City of Austin:

- For testing information and other information- <https://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
- For information on the Isolation Facility which provides free lodging for those who cannot safely self-isolate due to COVID-19- <http://austintexas.gov/department/covid-19-information/symptoms-testing-and-care>


CommUnityCare- For testing, healthcare, and other information- <https://communitycaretx.org/coronavirus-updates>

COVID-19: Quarantine vs. Isolation

QUARANTINE keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.



ISOLATION keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.



If you had close contact with a person who has COVID-19

- Stay home until 14 days after your last contact.
- Check your temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.
- If possible, stay away from people who are at higher-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.


If you are sick and think or know you have COVID-19

- Stay home until after
 - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
 - Symptoms have improved
- If you tested positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms
 - Stay home until after
 - 10 days have passed since your positive test
- If you live with others, stay in a specific “sick room” or area and away from other people or animals, including pets. Use a separate bathroom, if available.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing **Fever or chills**

Muscle or body aches **Vomiting or diarrhea** **New loss of taste or smell**

Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

If your child develops symptoms, contact your healthcare provider for further guidance.