

Checklist for Educational and Childcare Facilities to Assist in Identifying Close Contacts to COVID-19

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PLEASE NOTE: New or updated information appears in orange text.

Contact tracing can help prevent transmission of COVID-19. Contact tracing involves identifying people who are at risk of COVID-19 following close contact to someone with COVID-19 then notifying them of their risk, recommending testing and advising self-quarantine. Testing allows for early identification of infection to break chains of transmission, but a person needs to quarantine even with a negative test because it can take 14 days after an exposure for a person to develop COVID-19.

Purpose: The purpose of this guidance is to support educational and childcare facilities to assist the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in contact tracing when a person with COVID-19 is identified within their facility. Contact tracing is a collaborative process and requires assistance from community partners, including educational and childcare facilities.

Definitions:

Close contact: a person being within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for at least 10 cumulative minutes over the person's infectious period; this exposure can occur over multiple additive time periods in the course of a single day or multiple days.

Infectious period: a person diagnosed with COVID-19 is considered to be infectious starting 2 days before their symptom onset (or 2 days before the specimen collection date of their positive test if asymptomatic), until they are removed from isolation based on CDC's criteria for [discontinuation of home isolation](#).

Isolation: assumes infectiousness for at least 10 days after symptom onset (or 10 days after the date of collection of the positive specimen if the person is asymptomatic). ([self-isolation guidelines](#))

Quarantine: used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. Someone must quarantine for 10 days from the last day they were exposed to a person infected with COVID-19. ([self-quarantine guidelines](#))