

**Q** I've heard that you can test positive for COVID up to 90 days after infection. How can a person get 2 negative tests?

**A** PCR stays positive long after COVID infection but antigen tests do not- SO if someone develops symptoms within 90 days after infection, 2 negative antigen tests at least 24 hours apart is enough to rule out COVID

**Q** Should child care programs still report positive cases to VDH?

**A** Yes, please. Use [this link](#) or encourage families to do the reporting.

**Q** My 3yo daughter tested positive on Wednesday and VDH called us today to talk about her quarantine. We were told she could leave quarantine after day 5. When I explained her pediatrician said we should quarantine for the full 10 days and the VDH employee told us that is a better plan and doesn't think the 5 day is long enough. This does not give me confidence regarding putting a 5 day quarantine in place at my program. Can you please explain why we are given different answers from the same department?

**A** I am interested to hear that the pediatric advice was different than Vermont Department of Health guidance. Perhaps the pediatrician is not up to date on the changes? we make a practice of NOT questioning the relationship between pediatricians and families

**Q** Can you choose to test children at the center in the morning as opposed to sending the test home?

**A** No, these are take-home tests meant to be administered by parents before children arrive to prevent positive children from arriving at the program.

If the parent wants to activate the test at home and read the results at the program before the child enters that is fine, but testing at the child care center does not meet the Test for Tots goal of preventing positive children from going to care. Tests are not to be administered by child care staff. These are take-home tests to be administered by parents before arriving at a program.

**Q** If a parent tests positive, and assuming that they are not quarantining from their child, when can the child (over 2) get tested and when can they return?

**A** Household close contact without isolation: Child starts their day zero for quarantine as soon as parent's isolation period ends. If individuals are not fully vaccinated, it is recommended that they test daily while their household contact is in isolation and for 5 consecutive days after the household contact ends isolation.

**Q** Will Test For Tots materials be translated?

**A** If you need translation send an email to [AHS.DCFCDCTestForTots@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFCDCTestForTots@vermont.gov) with the language and the specific information you need translated and we will work on it. You can also translate the program design and FAQs with the Google translator at [Regulated Child Care COVID-19 Tests For Tots Program](#)

**Q** A staff member had what she thought were cold symptoms and tested negative with antigen tests for 4 days in a row, but a PCR test showed she was positive. Now what?

**A** We would need more information in order to answer this question fully. In general, we base day 0 on the following consideration: If you have a positive COVID test with no symptoms, day 0 is the day when you took the test. If you have symptoms, day 0 is the day symptoms start, regardless of if it was before or after the test.

**Q** Will private programs be allowed to hold onto the older, stricter testing and quarantining policies and still receive Act 166 funding?

**A** If a private PreK program is receiving test kits from the Tests for Tots program or the Test at Home program, they must follow the appropriate program design. Private PreK programs that are securing their own test kits may develop their own program design. However, we encourage all child care programs to participate in Tests for Tots or Test at Home if eligible.

**Q** Please clarify the expectations around symptoms being resolved vs improved. I see the term “resolved” is used for close contacts and exhibiting symptoms. The VDH criteria for ending quarantine after testing positive for COVID-19 says “symptoms have improved, and you feel better”. I just want to make sure we are setting the correct expectations for symptoms. I also am looking for assistance with how to handle children who have coughs or runny noses all winter, and how to manage “resolved” symptoms in these situations?

**A** Language on the Test for Tots website has been update to indicate that symptoms should be improved.

**Q** What are the current guidelines for children under 2? I have received different information from the department of health when I have called on the same day about the same positive case.

**A** If child is under 2 and tests positive, they should isolate 5 days. They can leave after day 5 if symptom free(if symptomatic would continue to isolate until day 10 or asymptomatic, whichever comes first). If they are a close contact they quarantine 5 days, can test out of quarantine with a PCR test on day 5, assuming they are symptom free

**Q** What is the timeline for under two masking; definitions of constant; and what is considered adequate to limit spread safety of staff

**A** If child is under 2 and tests positive, they should isolate 5 days. They can leave after day 5 if symptom free (if symptomatic would continue to isolate until day 10 or asymptomatic, whichever comes first). If they are a close contact they quarantine 5 days, can test out of quarantine with a PCR test on day 5, assuming they are symptom free. We encourage children to do the best they can with masking. Continue to follow basic public health guidelines (on the *protect yourself and others* webpage on Department of Health) to limit spread. The test for tots guidelines allow people out of quarantine by doing serial antigen tests. The guidelines were created with Vermont Department of Health and the Department is in full support of the program.

**Q** Why aren't tests being made available to vaccinated 5 year-olds? Public schools are making tests available for them on days 4 & 5. What about close contacts in the household? Seems like every member of the family ends up with covid, but some have tested positive on day 6 or beyond. What about weekends? Can we send test kits home with families over a weekend even if we don't have an exposure? Otherwise someone from the program would have to arrange & be there for pick up over the weekend? Thank you!

**A** This program was created based on Test to Stay which was only for unvaccinated students and not fully protected adults. Test to stay was recently changed to Test from Home, at which time the guidelines changed to include vaccinated children and adults. It is always possible that the Test for Tots guidelines will change, but this is what we have currently. If individuals are not fully vaccinated, it is recommended that they test daily while their household contact is in isolation and for 5 consecutive days after the household contact ends isolation. Test kits should not be sent out prior to exposure. If someone was positive over the weekend, tests could be distributed on Monday.

**Q** Please clarify the quarantine and return guidance for young children who test positive, 3-5 year olds and under two, those that can mask and those that cannot. Some pediatricians are telling families to stay home for ten days after a positive diagnosis. On the DOH site, it says children under two can return to care after 5 days with a positive diagnosis if they no longer have symptoms. Please clarify. If a child is living with a sibling who has COVID and unable to isolate, how long should they continue to test if they are involved in Tests for Tots? Test for Tots does not allow use for exposed fully vaccinated individuals. A great number of fully vaccinated adults are getting COVID and spreading it. Will there be resources provided so that they can test after exposure/ and be proactive? Can you clarify when adults can return after having COVID? There is conflicting information and encouragement to test out, but not a requirement. I'm thinking about child care settings where adults eat with children and work with children unable to mask.

**A** Everyone, regardless of age may return AFTER day 5. They need two negative antigen tests on day 4 and 5 at the earliest(if they are over the age of 2, children under 2 do not need to test

out of isolation), improved symptoms, and no fever for 24 hours. Inconsistent masking doesn't stop them from getting out of isolation early. This guidance was created with our infectious disease doctors. If individuals are not fully vaccinated, it is recommended that they test daily while their household contact is in isolation and for 5 consecutive days after the household contact ends isolation. We do not currently provide tests for fully protected adults through Test for Tots. We STRONGLY recommend testing out of isolation but it is not a Vermont Department of Health Requirement.

**Q** Do we break up the pack of 10 tests in one kit for 2 families so we have another 5 for next time or give them all at once and hope they still have them when needed again?

**A** Per the EUA on those tests, the 10-packs cannot be opened and split to send home with multiple families. They must be sent home as a complete 10-pack.

**Q** Is the rule of thumb still 6 feet for 15 minutes or more? I have a child who was in the same room as the infected person for apx 20, but was more than 6 feet away. Should this child be considered a close contact?

**A** The Vermont Department of Health Website states "Close contact means being within 6 feet, for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, of someone with COVID-19 during their infectious period."

**Q** We have 2 children who are 4 and 5 months. They do not walk or crawl yet. They are in the classroom with our older infants, but they rarely interact. Would ALL of the infants not be allowed to return for 10 days? Or if the youngest infants were not within 6 feet of the positive person could they return? I'm wondering if because they are immobile and they wouldn't be mouthing toys there is less chance of spreading germs.

**A** If they are not a close contact but others are and are participating in TFT and you cannot isolate them they need to stay home. Not for 10 days, just 5 assuming they have no symptoms

**Q** Are we supposed to hand out all 10 tests to the families who are close contacts? Or if the child attends 3 days a week, they would only need 6 tests so I give them a total of 6 tests?

**A** Give the child as many tests as they need to be able to test once daily for 5 days post exposure, regardless of whether they are attending childcare on a given day. If you have the 10-packs of tests, please note that the 10-packs cannot be split up to be distributed to multiple families.

**Q** So a fully vaccinated teacher or child who comes down with symptoms at school is not allowed to use our antigen tests from Test for Tots?

**A** Not currently.

**Q** When participating in test for tots, do under the age of two still need to be separated, when all kids are outside?

**A** The Test for Tots guidance states “If the childcare program has the ability to keep children between the ages of 6 weeks to 23 months, who are not close contacts, separated from the other children in the program they may attend childcare. If not they should not attend the program.” Children under age two years would need be separated regardless of location.

**Q** If family chooses not to participate in Test for Tots and they are exposed in the classroom what are the quarantine and testing rules?

**A** They should follow the quarantine guidance found of the Vermont Department of Health website <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/symptoms-sickness/what-do-if-you-are-close-contact>

**Q** We have a family who participates in test for tots and when they spoke with their doctor, they were told they should not be using the antigen test unless symptomatic. The mixed information is incredibly confusing, in this situation, what should a childcare provider do? Does the family continue test for tots when exposed even if they are not symptomatic?

**A** Yes, continue to use the antigen test for Test for Tots when asymptomatic.

**Q** If a family does an antigen test at home on an infant, and the result is positive, is that test considered accurate, when the tests are not approved for use in infants?

**A** The antigen tests are not authorized under the EUA. The family should follow up with their provider for PCR testing

**Q** After day 5 if symptoms are resolved but the child is still rapid testing positive can they return?

**A** No, they need 2 negative antigen tests in a row(at least 24 hours apart), or they can return on day 10, whichever comes first.

**Q** What if a kiddo age 2-5 still tests positive after day 10 on an antigen test?

**A** Our infectious disease doctors do not recommend testing children on/after day 10. They are not considered infectious after the 10 day period.

**Q** A child under four just had covid and returned on Monday to childcare. One of the parents just tested positive today. Do I need to send home a test for tots for the child to be tested next week each day before attending each day? Or is this child immune from getting it again so soon after just having?

**A** They would not be eligible to participate in Test for Tots or need to quarantine if they are asymptomatic. If they should become symptomatic, they should stay home and they should have antigen testing 2 days in a row, at least 24 hours apart to rule out reinfection. This is based on this language on the Test for Tots page "Close contacts who have had a confirmed case of COVID-19 within 90 days do not need to quarantine and do not participate in Tests for Tots. They must wear a mask around other people while in the child care program for the next 10 days."

**Q** Why are you recommending 0-2 yrs test on day 5 if the incubation period is shorter? Can they go get a PCR on day 3?

**A** Need to wait until day 5. Stopping on day 3 is too early based on our current knowledge

**Q** Why is inconsistency with masking an exception, especially since the kids are not vaccinated?

**A** Pediatricians, infectious disease doctors and public health officials have all looked at this together and determined it is appropriate.

**Q** The health dept has a great website for testing: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing> The quick guides for the QuickVue do not cover swabbing the nose. It appears to start with processing the swab once the nose swabbing has been completed. Is it possible to add the important step of swabbing the nose? I'm concerned about parents using the quick guide and never swabbing the nose.

**A** Thanks for this feedback- we checked in with the people in charge of the website, and they stated that "The Quick Reference instructions are created by the test kit company, so we do not have the capacity to make changes to these documents. However, this is why we also have created videos with the Vermont Language Justice Project to review how to use this and other kinds of tests, which clearly reviews swabbing the nose"

**Q** Can programs decide to test children as they come into school rather than having parents do them at home?

**A** No, these are take home tests meant to be administered by parents before children arrive to prevent positive children from arriving at the program.

If the parent wants to activate the test at home and read the results at the program before the child enters that is fine, but testing at the child care center does not meet the Test for Tots goal of preventing positive children from going to care. Tests are not to be administered by child care staff. These are take home tests to be administered by parents before arriving at a program.

**Q** We are seeing kiddos test positive after 5 days. Can we test for the 10 days, especially if the masking is inconsistent?

**A** If you are participating in Test for Tots, you need to follow TFT guidelines, only test for 5 days.

**Q** Can you please review the timeline for returning if child is positive for COVID? Parents really want their kids to be able to antigen test on day 5 and return if they're negative, even if they do not mask/mask consistently.

**A** Children may return AFTER day 5. They need two negative antigen tests on day 4 and 5 at the earliest(if they are over the age of 2, children under 2 do not need to test out of isolation), improved symptoms, and no fever for 24 hours. Inconsistent masking doesn't stop them from getting out of isolation early.

**Q** So if a child is participating due to exposure and let's say test neg on day 2 and attends care, then on day 3 they test positive. Will that mean we start over with all children that attended on day 2 with exposure date and send more kits home?

**A** Yes, you would contact trace for that child within your program, going back 2 days from the day they tested positive. Anyone identified as a close contact should be sent home with more test kits.

**Q** What about students who move between programs? We have students exposed at their morning pre-K program, who then join us for the afternoon. Parents are telling us that they do not have to isolate, but I thought they do outside of the program for which they were tested? Or is their negative antigen test for pre-K enough to let them re-join our program for the day?

**A** Children who are identified as a close contact in their childcare location can participate in either their school's program or the childcare Tests for Tots program. The childcare program and/or parent/caregiver should communicate/coordinate with the school.

**Q** How do we (as medical providers) reassure daycare providers that negative antigen tests have sufficient sensitivity to not miss the beginning of the infectious period? Do we have data to support this policy?

**A** The VT Department of Health has worked closely with infectious disease doctors and epidemiologists to create this guidance.

**Q** Please verify that the antigen tests we have are to be given to any child who becomes symptomatic in the program or at home, even if their family has not opted in to the Test for Tots program.

**A** No, if a child is not in the program and becomes symptomatic, they are sent home but not given tests

**Q** I am curious about what the percentage of Omicron cases is vs other variants in Vermont right now and can't find that data.

**A** Right now it is assumed that if you have COVID you have omicron.

**Q** The recent positive cases we had were preceded by 2-4 negative antigen tests (24 hours apart), yet the PCRs were positive and over 40 people were exposed for 3 days. We signed up for TFT and received our antigen tests before receiving the guidelines. We are not ready to offer a test to stay program during Omicron based on our experience over the last 2 months. Does this mean the State would like to pick up the antigen tests that we received?

**A** If you are not going to implement Test for Tots right now, we will find a way to retrieve the tests. Please Send an email to [AHS.DCFCDTestForTots@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFCDTestForTots@vermont.gov) and let us know

**Q** What to do if we as adults test positive on antigen test longer than 10 days, and have no symptoms and no medications. so we meet all the requirements to leave isolation except the testing requirements

**A** Our infectious disease doctors do not recommend testing on/after day 10. People are not considered infectious after the 10 day period.

**Q** Do close contacts need to be sent home or can they complete the day? Apparently there was communication pushed out by Dr. Levine and Mr. French that said close contacts should be sent home, while T4T protocol says they can complete the day. Which is it, and why is it ok for child to stay in care if they might be positive after a close contact? Should childcare providers be testing those children identified as close contacts at the time they receive notification that they're close contacts rather than sending them home?



**A** Children and staff can either finish the day as normal or, if the program chooses, be asked to leave the child care program. You do not need to test children right when you find out they are a close contact, testing can begin the next morning.

**Q** I'm a bit confused on the positive guideline- I had a child (under 2) test positive on 1/10 and the DOH told the family and me that she wasn't allowed back until today, day 10. But test for tots says 5 days?

**A** This guidance has evolved since the shortened quarantine and isolation guidance first came out. At this time, Children under 2 may return AFTER day 5. They need improved symptoms, and no fever for 24 hours. They do not need to isolate for 10 days.

**Q** What are the protocols being put in place to help teachers feel safe? I am vaccinated and boosted and still contracted covid. How can we help teachers feel safe if we cannot provide testing?

**A** Standard mitigation measures will be key. Encouraging vaccination and boosters, masking, getting your flu shot, washing hands, testing after high risk activities. Basic public health measures remain vital.

**Q** Why do all close contact children need to masks outside?

**A** Children and staff who are testing daily must wear masks except while eating, napping, or outdoors when they are actively participating in Tests for Tots and attending the child care program

**Q** When we have questions about the testing program, that is not health related, who at CDD are we to contact? What is their contact information?

**A** Please Send an email to [AHS.DCFCDDTestForTots@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFCDDTestForTots@vermont.gov) with your non health related questions

**Q** If a child has symptoms of sickness and then we send them home. Do we ask families to take two antigens before they return?

**A** The individual may return to the child care program once symptoms have improved, they have been without a fever or fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours, they have negative test results on two antigen take-home tests as close to 24 hours apart as possible, and in compliance with current infectious disease protocol in child care licensing regulations. If the child is under 2, they should get a PCR test

**Q** Prior to omicron if a child was exposed at home they needed to quarantine through their family member's isolation period and then have their own quarantine period (if they were unable to isolate from the positive case). Is this no longer the case?

**A** This is still true, however if they participate in Test for Tots, they can still attend childcare through the program. If individuals are not fully vaccinated, it is recommended that they test daily while their household contact is in isolation and for 5 consecutive days after the household contact ends isolation.

**Additional guidance can be found below:**

- [what to do if you test positive for COVID-19](#)
- [what to do if you are a close contact.](#)