What Happens When Someone at D4C Tests Positive for COVID-19

Quarantine and Testing of Children

When a person in a classroom tests positive for COVID-19 (with or without symptoms), all people designated as close contacts* must quarantine for a minimum of 10 days and it is strongly recommended that they be tested around day 5-7 after exposure.

* "Close contact" is defined by New Hampshire as a person being within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for a cumulative time of 10 minutes or longer during the person’s infectious period; this exposure can occur over multiple separate contacts or even days.

Please note only the staff and children who had direct exposure to the person who tested positive must quarantine. Other family members (including parents and siblings) are not required to quarantine because of this incident.

I strongly suggest that each family discuss with your child’s pediatrician possible COVID testing for your child(ren) between 5-7 days after the last possible exposure (see below for details) to ensure the child does not have an asymptomatic infection. A positive test would require a 10-day isolation that would start on the day that the test was obtained and then family members (including siblings) would need to begin quarantine.

Testing of Parents

It is not required for parents or siblings to be tested in order for exposed children to return to the classroom.

Dartmouth provides asymptomatic surveillance testing on campus for all Dartmouth College staff and faculty who are approved to work on campus. If you are a Dartmouth staff or faculty approved to work on campus you can easily access this service. For parents in directly-impacted classrooms who are employed by Dartmouth (even if you are not approved to work on campus at this time) you may access this testing once on day 5-7 after exposure, as further reassurance that you have not been infected. You may do so by telling me that you would like to be tested and I will submit your name as clear to access testing.

Staff Members

Staff members who are identified as close contacts of a person who has received a positive result, must answer “yes” to the second question on the Temperature Self-Assessment (TSA): Have you had close contact* with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have had COVID-19 in the prior 10 days?

The staff members who have had close contact must then immediately contact Axiom Medical Consulting and follow their instructions. Axiom will advise staff members about how long they need to quarantine, when to have a follow-up test and when they will contact them to reassess their situation. They will give them a potential return to work date which could change based on the results of their follow-up consultation. Employees will receive instructions on how to access drive-thru COVID-19 testing services provided through Axiom.
**Information That Will Be Shared**

**Directly-Impacted Classrooms**
The following information will be provided to families in the directly impacted classroom(s):
- Most recent date of potential exposure
- Date that the classroom will potentially be reopened
- Protocol to follow

**All Other Classrooms**
The following information will be provided to families in other classrooms:
- Alert that a positive test result was received in a different classroom
- Whether or not siblings are required to quarantine
- Dates that impacted classrooms are projected to reopen

**Please note** I am not at liberty to inform families of ongoing test results for children or staff. That is confidential medical information. i.e. I cannot inform all D4C families as negative test results are received for staff and children in the impacted classrooms. Staff and children must continue quarantine even if they receive negative test results on day 5-7, so releasing this information would not only violate their medical privacy rights, it may also provide a false sense of security. If additional positive results are found, then all families will receive updated information about classroom reopening dates as appropriate.

**Reopening the Classroom**
Classrooms will be clear to reopen when a sufficient number of staff members to meet mandated teacher/child ratios have been cleared by Axiom to return to work.

Children may return once the classroom is reopened and their 10-day quarantine has successfully concluded (see attached *Quarantine After Being Exposed to COVID-19* from the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control). It is **strongly recommended** that children receive a negative COVID-19 test before returning.

Dartmouth College custodial staff will complete additional disinfection processes before the classroom is reopened.

**After the Classroom Reopens**
Classroom life will return to *COVID-time normal*.
- Children will be dropped off and picked up outside.
- Temperatures will continue to be monitored.
- Screening questions will continue to be asked.
- Children will continue to be sent home or denied entry for even the smallest of related symptoms.
- D4C staff members will continue to be tested twice weekly.
- Teachers will continue to wear masks at all times in the classrooms when not eating or drinking.
- Teachers will remain 6 feet away from others when unmasked to eat or drink.
- Sunnie will continue to be available to answer any questions.

**Taking care of yourself**
This is a very stressful situation. Please remember that The Faculty/Employee Assistance Program is available to all Dartmouth staff, faculty, and their families. [https://www.dartmouth.edu/eap/](https://www.dartmouth.edu/eap/)
If a Household Member of a D4C Child Tests Positive
If a person who lives in the same household as a D4C child tests positive for COVID-19, the child is considered a close contact* and must quarantine for 10 days from the date of exposure before returning to D4C and it is strongly recommended that they be tested around day 5-7 after exposure. Even if the child receives a negative test, they must complete the entire time of quarantine before returning.