

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

If there is a positive case at D4C, the Director will notify NH DHHS and follow all recommendations up to and including curtailing operations on a temporary basis in all or part of the building. Given current guidelines, it is very unlikely that this would happen.

If a significant amount of staff members are required to be in isolation, we may have to close impacted classrooms or ask families to keep children at home if possible in order to meet staffing ratio requirements with the staff members who are able to work.

### **If a Child or Staff Member Tests Positive**

- Staff members who test positive for COVID-19 will communicate with Axiom Medical Consulting and follow their instructions. Axiom will advise staff members about how long they need to isolate, 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 future testing.
- In keeping with CDC and Dartmouth policy, children who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for 5 days and can return to D4C upon receipt of a negative rapid antigen test result. If the result of a rapid antigen test on Day 5 is positive, a second rapid antigen test can be administered on Day 7. If the antigen test on Day 7 is negative, the child can return. In the event the result is still positive, the child can return after a 10-day isolation period without the need for a test. If you prefer not to subject your child to continuous testing, you may simply opt to complete a 10 day isolation period.

### **Close Household Contacts**

If a person who lives in the same household as a D4C child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the individual is considered a close household contact\* and must follow the appropriate guidelines for their age and ability to remain masked.

- Children who cannot be masked due to age or ability to keep a mask on appropriately, must quarantine for 5 days from their last exposure. If they test negative after 5 days, they can return on day 6.
- Children who are old enough to be masked and who are willing and able to keep a mask on during the day, are no longer required to quarantine. D4C teachers will make the assessment of whether or not a child is likely to keep their mask on during the day.

Staff members who are a close household contact will contact Axiom Medical Consulting and follow their directions which typically involve masking and watching for symptoms.

\*Household Contact: any individual who lives and sleeps in the same indoor shared space as another person diagnosed with COVID-19 (either a temporary or permanent living arrangement), leading to close contact and potential repeated exposure to the person with COVID-19. This includes situations where there may be temporary but prolonged exposure such as occurs as sleep-over events, shared camp cabins, vacation rentals, etc.

## **Non-Household Close Contact**

When a person in a classroom tests positive for COVID-19 (with or without symptoms), all people designated as close contacts\* should monitor themselves closely for symptoms and, if they develop symptoms, isolate and seek testing.

*\* "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.*

I **strongly suggest** that each family test child(ren) between 5-7 days after the last possible exposure to ensure the child does not have an asymptomatic infection. A positive test would require a period of isolation that would start on the day that the test was obtained.

## **Information That Will Be Shared**

### **Directly Impacted Classrooms**

The following information will be provided to families in the directly impacted classroom(s):

- A potential exposure has happened in your child's classroom
- Most recent date of potential exposure or
- A person is a close household contact who will be in the classroom and masked
- Date that the classroom will potentially be reopened in the unlikely event that it was closed
- 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
- Dates that impacted classrooms are projected to reopen if any were instructed to close

**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 who have been instructed to quarantine must continue quarantine as directed. If additional positive results are found, then all families will receive updated information.

### **Reopening the Classroom (if instructed to close)**

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 isolation has successfully concluded. It is **strongly recommended** that children receive a negative COVID-19 test before returning.

### **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/>