

## ToTH Montessori Covid-19 Exclusion and Return Criteria

Child or Staff Member With	Guidance for Exclusion and Return to School
<p><b>Symptoms of Covid-19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fever or chills,</li> <li>● Cough,</li> <li>● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,</li> <li>● Fatigue,</li> <li>● Muscle or body aches,</li> <li>● Headache,</li> <li>● New loss of taste or smell,</li> <li>● Sore throat,</li> <li>● Congestion or runny nose,</li> <li>● Nausea or vomiting,</li> <li>● Diarrhea</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The child or staff member should not attend work or school if they begin experiencing symptoms of Covid-19.</li> <li>2. The child or staff member should be tested for Covid-19.</li> </ol> <p><b>If test result is NEGATIVE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Refer to the “Signs of Illness/Return Criteria” section of the Family Handbook.</li> <li>● Individuals may return to school after meeting ToTH’s return-to-school criteria for specific illness and symptoms.</li> </ul> <p><b>If test result is POSITIVE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Please see below for individuals who test positive for Covid-19.</li> </ul> <p><b>If testing is not recommended by a healthcare provider:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The individual must submit a doctor’s note stating an alternative diagnosis AND the individual must meet ToTH’s return-to-school criteria before returning to school.</li> </ul> <p>This guidance applies to all individuals regardless of vaccination status or previous Covid-19 infection.</p>
<p><b>Positive test result for Covid-19</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> People who are very sick from COVID-19 and people who have weakened immune systems might need to isolate at home longer. CDC recommends an isolation period of at least 10 and up to 20 days for people who were very sick from COVID-19 and for people with weakened immune systems. Individuals who fall into one of these categories should consult with their healthcare provider and follow their advice.</p>	<p><b>Asymptomatic or Mild Symptoms:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The staff member or child must isolate at home for a period of 5 days after the date of symptom onset or the date of the positive test and <b>test again on day 5</b>.</li> </ol> <p><b>If the child is under 2 years of age/cannot wear a mask at school</b> should continue to isolate at home for days 6 through 10.</p> <p><b>If the Child is 2 years of age or older and can wear a well-fitting mask at school through day 10 or after two sequential negative tests taken 48 hours apart,:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-lowering medications (e.g., acetaminophen or ibuprofen) AND other symptoms are improving: <b>Return after at least 5 days (i.e., on day 6)</b> from when symptoms first started.</li> <li>● If still have a fever and/or other symptoms have not improved at day 5: Return after being fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved.</li> </ul> <p><b>If the day 5 result is NEGATIVE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Return to school on day 6 if symptoms have improved AND individual is fever-free for 24 hours without medication</li> <li>○ Wear a well-fitting mask at school through day 10</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderate to Severe Symptoms: The staff member or child should isolate at home for 10 full days after symptom onset.</b></p>

**Close contact with someone with a confirmed case of Covid-19**

**Up-to-Date on Covid-19 Vaccination or Recovered from Covid-19 in Past 90 Days**

**These individuals do not need to quarantine and may continue attending school\*, but they should:**

- Take an antigen test each day through day 6 and submit the result to their classroom phone each morning.
  - If a test result is **positive**, see the guidance above.
- Monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms for a full 10 days after exposure. They should isolate and test if symptoms develop.
- Wear a well-fitting mask at school for 10 days after their exposure.

**Based on our experience with children who are exposed to Covid-19 in the home, we recommend isolating for a period of six days after exposure and testing on day 6 as the best course of action for minimizing risk of spread at school.**

**Unvaccinated or Not Up to Date on Covid-19 Vaccination**

**Children who are unvaccinated or not up to date on Covid-19 vaccination should quarantine at home after exposure to a person with a confirmed case of Covid-19.**

**\*\*TEST TO STAY OPTION (if able to isolate from positive individual)\*\***

- **If over the age of 2 and able to wear a well-fitting mask at school for 10 days**, the family may opt to “Test-to-Stay” for 5 school days (i.e. child is exposed on Tuesday and must test on Wed, Thurs, Fri., Mon., Tues.). Parents must administer a rapid antigen test each morning at home for the next five school days and send a picture of the test result to the classroom cell phone.
- **If under the age of 2 and not able to wear a well-fitting mask at school for 10 days**, the family may opt to “Test-to-Stay” for 7 school days (i.e. child is exposed on Sunday and must test Mon., Tues., Wed, Thurs, Fri., Mon., Tues.) Parents must administer a rapid antigen test each morning at home for the next seven school days (not to exceed 10 days post exposure) and send a picture of the test result to the classroom cell phone.
- Parents must monitor children for COVID-19 symptoms for a full 10 days after exposure. The child should isolate and test if symptoms develop (see page 1).

**If a child who is unvaccinated is exposed to Covid-19 in the home and is unable to isolate from the positive individual (ongoing exposure):**

- **Child is younger than age 2 OR unable to wear a well-fitting mask:** May return to school after a minimum of 10 days from the end of the COVID-19-positive individual’s isolation period.
- **Child or staff member is age 2 or older and able to wear a well-fitting mask through day 10:** May test on day 5 after the end of the COVID-19-positive individual’s isolation period. If the result is negative, may return to school the next day.