

## Covid Screening 2-5-21

### Frequently Asked Questions



**Question #1:** I woke up and cannot taste my morning coffee. I could not smell my shampoo when I washed my hair. Should I come to work?

**Answer:** No. In question #1 of the Covid Screener, loss of taste or smell is a common symptom. Please stay at home and contact your team leader and Amanda Gass.

**Question #2:** A child at our center has a family member that is in close contact with a positive case. Does the child need to stay home?

**Answer:** Let's use an example. If Mary has a teenage son that is sent home from public school as close contact, can Mary send her daughter Susan to Head Start? Susan is a contact of a contact and can come to Head Start. If Susan's older brother tests positive for Covid-19 (or starts showing symptoms too), she will need to be quarantined along with others in the family if Covid is confirmed. Some medical providers may suggest that everyone quarantine immediately as this is a very contagious virus. If you decide to keep your child home as a "contact of a contact" absences will be excused and we can pivot to virtual services if you wish.



**Question #3:** I traveled out of state. I do not have Covid symptoms and I have not, to my knowledge, been around someone with Covid-19. Do I need to stay home while I am waiting for my test results?

**Answer:** If you are being tested just to feel safe, you can come to work while you are waiting on your results.

**Question #4:** I am a close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. Can I go get a Covid test to get out of quarantine?

**Answer:** No. You cannot “Test Out” of quarantine. The Tennessee Department of Health does offer a testing schedule that may **shorten** your quarantine period, but the guidelines are very strict about when you may be tested and the type of test allowed to shorten the quarantine period.

You cannot test out of quarantine.



**Question #5:**

One of my family members is experiencing Covid like symptoms but has not tested positive. Can I come to work?

**Answer:** In some cases, the answer is **yes**. Call Amanda Gass. She can help you decide if you need to come to work or stay home and get tested as soon as possible. When in doubt, we will probably encourage you to stay home.

**Question #6:** I have reason to believe that a family member has tested positive for Covid and should be in quarantine but the parent has not disclosed this important information and is attempting to drop off a child.

**Answer:** This is a very delicate situation and should be approached cautiously. It has happened. From a safe distance, read off the Covid screening questions to the parent giving the parent the opportunity to disclose the situation. If the parent does not disclose the information perhaps with some prompting or “leading” follow-up, it is best to ask the parent to pull out of the drop off line and call management staff for further assistance if you need help. Ask the parent “please move over a minute while I talk to you and sort some things out.” We do not want to alienate a parent but we certainly do not want a child with Covid entering the center, instead of being home quarantined.





**Question #7:** My husband tested positive for Covid-19. Can I come to work?

**Answer:** No. If you and your husband live in the same household, you are most likely in daily close contact with him. You will need to quarantine.

**Question #8:** I took my child for a Rapid Test and she tested negative. She has since lost her sense of taste. What should I do?

**Answer:** Rapid Test can be unreliable. Loss of taste is a major symptom and you should consider taking your daughter for a regular Covid test. HSO will likely tell you to quarantine with your child. If your child's results come back negative, we will likely tell you to come back to work. If your child's test is positive, you will need to quarantine as a close contact.

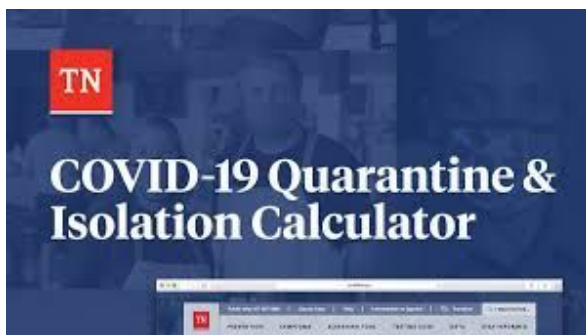


**Question #9:** We had a parent answer all the Covid questions “No” but the child was very pale and appeared tired. The child came into the classroom and immediately went to sleep. He is just not acting as he normally would. What do I do?

**Answer:** When in doubt it is best to ask the parent to keep the child at home. If the child has already been admitted to the classroom, call the parent and find out if something happened the night before. It is possible that the child did not get a good night's sleep. It is also possible that the parent has given the child fever-reducing medication so be sure to keep a close check on the child's temperature. If at any point the child begins to display a high-risk symptom or 2 or more of the low-risk symptoms, follow our Covid guidelines.

**Question #10:** What do you do if a parent refuses to answer the Covid question.

**Answer:** It is important to let the parent know we are following the guidelines set forth by the Tennessee Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Our goal is to keep the children and staff safe and to cut down on the spread of Covid-19. If the parent is still not willing to answer the questions, let them know that our Head Start Office has advised you that a child cannot attend our program without a health screening (The questions are a part of that health screening). If the parent still refuses to complete the health screening, please give them our office number and have them ask for Christy, Jamie, or Julie.



**Question #11:** My husband's workplace is not requiring their employees to quarantine. Why am I having to quarantine for such a long period of time?

**Answer:** SVHS follows the guidelines set forth by the Tennessee Department of Health. We utilize the [TN Covid Calculator](#) to determine a staff's isolation/quarantine

period. We have no control over what other businesses and workplaces do.

**Question #12:** Diarrhea vomiting, and nausea are listed as low-risk symptoms. One of our families has had a stomach bug. What do I tell them? Can the child come to school?

**Answer:** Please refer to the Parent Handbook page 14. If the child has a stomach virus they must be free of symptoms without medication for 24 hours. These are also minor symptoms for Covid. We recommend the family go for Covid testing just to be safe.

