



## A graphic with a light orange background. On the left side, there are several blue question marks of varying sizes. To the right of the question marks, the text "COVID-19" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font. Below "COVID-19", the words "Frequently" and "Asked Questions" are written in a large, white, sans-serif font, stacked vertically.

**How is the decision made to quarantine or close a Head Start/Early Head Start classroom?**

The process starts when MFCS learns of a positive test. We then contact the local county health department. The health department then directs us on how to proceed. MFCS does not make these decisions. We only follow the recommendations of the local health department.

**What is direct contact?**

“Direct Contact” is defined as being within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

**Why is my child quarantined?**

The health department will direct a child be quarantined due to:

- A positive COVID-19 test
- Showing signs/symptoms of COVID-19
- Direct contact with someone that tested positive for COVID-19
- International travel

**Does my other child need to quarantine?**

If the other child did not have direct contact with someone that tested positive for COVID-19, no. If your child tests positive, then the sibling would need to quarantine due to being in direct contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19. This will be on a case-by-case basis given the individual details of each sibling group.

**When can my child return to the classroom?**

Currently the CDC is recommending the following quarantine times:

- 14 days after showing signs/symptoms of COVID-19
- 14 days after testing positive for COVID-19
- 10 days after being in direct contact with someone that is positive for COVID-19
- 7 days after returning from international travel

You may contact the local health department for additional information.

Hernando County Health Department (352) 540-6800

Sumter County Health Department (352) 569-3102

Volusia County Health Department (386) 274-0500

**Does my child require a negative COVID-19 test to return?**

No.

**If I get a negative test result prior to the time frames listed above can my child return early?**

No. The only way to return prior to the quarantine timeframes listed above is to have a letter from the Health Department clearing the child to return to class.

**When will the Health Department contact me to discuss contact tracing?**

The local health departments are separate entities from Mid Florida Community Services Inc. The local health department is notified of any positive cases and exposures as soon as we are notified of them. The health department is in charge of reaching out to parents and they will contact you as per their schedules.

**What's the difference between staffing closure and COVID closure?**

We may have to close classrooms due to staffing shortages. MFCS will make every effort to ensure we have the staff required to operate the classrooms. However, there may be times when we cannot fully staff a classroom. In that instance, we will need to close the classroom. Usually staffing shortages are very short term, but could extend longer if the staff member is quarantined due to COVID exposure outside the classroom.

If a COVID closure is recommended by the health department, the classroom must remain closed for an extended period of time, usually 10-14 days depending on the case.