



Frequently Asked Questions

COVID-19 Town Hall for Resource Parents/Caregivers

January 19, 2022

For the most complete and up-to-date information, please visit the Department of Public Health (DPH) website at <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus>.

- 1. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and LA County health officials strongly discourage gatherings during a surge of COVID-19 cases. Are in-person family visits expected to take place when LA County is experiencing a surge?**

Yes, in-person family visits are required even during a COVID-19 surge because it is important to maintain family bonds and follow court orders. At this time, the Dependency Court has not waived family visits.

- 2. As a resource parent/caregiver, how do I protect the children I care for and myself from COVID-19 during in-person family visits?**

By utilizing the things we have in our toolbox, including vaccinations, proper hygiene (such as hand washing), social distancing, and mask-wearing. When possible, upgrade to surgical masks or higher-grade masks and stay home when feeling sick. When participants are not feeling well, schedule a virtual visit instead. These strategies will reduce the risk of exposure and assist you in maintaining a healthy household.

- 3. Are participants of in-person family visits required to be vaccinated?**

COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for in-person family or sibling visits to occur.



4. What should you do when you are exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19?

First, determine if you were in close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19. “Close contact” occurs when you are exposed to someone who tested positive* for COVID-19 while they were [infectious](#) and if:

- a. You were within 6 feet of the person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- b. You had unprotected contact with the person’s body fluids and/or secretions. For example, you were coughed or sneezed on, you shared a drinking cup or eating utensils, you kissed, or you provided care to them without wearing the proper protective equipment.

**Tested positive* means they had a positive COVID-19 viral test.

Once exposure is verified, quarantine guidance will depend on your vaccination status. If you were the only one in your household exposed, are asymptomatic and you are fully vaccinated and boosted, there is no need for quarantine.

If you are not fully vaccinated, you must self-quarantine for 5 days after close contact. If you become symptomatic, you must presume you have COVID and stay away from others while waiting for your test results.

5. Can students age five and older still attend school in person if they do not get the COVID-19 vaccine?

This depends on your school district. For instance, the Los Angeles Unified School District has delayed the implementation of the student vaccination requirement until the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester.

Please note that COVID-19 vaccine mandates will vary from one school district to another. Contact your school district regarding their requirements.

6. How can resource parents/caregivers protect children under the age of five who are not eligible for the vaccine?

To keep children who are not yet vaccine-eligible safe, it is most important that all people in that child’s life who are eligible have received the vaccine and booster. And when possible, conduct in-person family visits outdoors.



7. Has any research been conducted on how long the COVID-19 booster will last and when another booster is needed?

At this time, we do not know the answer to this question.

8. Are resource parents allowed to know about the vaccination status of a child in foster care?

Yes. A COVID-19 vaccination would be part of the general immunization record, which is provided in the Health and Education Passport.

9. Are resource parents/caregivers required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

No. Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary but highly recommended because vaccines boost your immune system, so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.

10. If non-vaccinated staff had COVID-19, are they exempt from weekly COVID-19 testing required per the County Vaccine Mandate for 90 days?

If an unvaccinated employee tested positive at a Fulgent testing site, their weekly testing requirement is suspended for 90 days, starting from the date of their positive test result. The employee will not be cleared to return to the workplace for 10 days. Upon return, the employee will not be required to test for the remaining 80 days because the antigen test will continue to show positive results even though the employee is not contagious anymore.

Non-vaccinated employees who had previously received a medical or religious exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine requirement and later tested positive for COVID-19 must resume testing 91 days from the date they last tested positive.