To allow our children and teachers to remain in school following a COVID exposure outside the household rather than quarantine, Concord Children’s Center has implemented rapid cohort testing (RCT). Below is an overview of RCT for our families and staff.

Rapid Cohort Testing (RCT)

RCT allows teachers, staff and children with a known direct exposure to a COVID-positive individual to continue to attend school provided they receive a negative result to a rapid antigen test taken each morning before coming to school, as follows:

- Children, teachers and staff who are exposed to a COVID-positive individual in their household may remain at CCC during their quarantine provided they:
  - are asymptomatic;
  - receive a negative result to an antigen test administered in the morning before coming to school for 10 consecutive days (with day zero being the date of the household member’s positive test); and
  - wear a mask indoors at CCC for the 10 days of their testing (for children over the age of two, teachers, and staff).

- CCC teachers, staff and children who are a close contact to a COVID case outside their household may remain at CCC during their quarantine provided they:
  - are asymptomatic;
  - receive a negative result to an antigen test administered in the morning before coming to school for five consecutive days (with day zero being their last date of exposure to the positive person); and
  - wear a mask indoors at CCC for the five days of their testing plus an additional five days (for children over the age of two, teachers, and staff).

- CCC teachers, staff and children who are a close contact to a COVID case and develop symptoms must get a PCR test and should stay out of CCC until they get the results.

How It Works

If a CCC child or staff member is exposed to a COVID-positive individual, they should immediately notify their program director who will provide their family/them with a supply of antigen tests if needed.
An exposed child must receive a negative result to an antigen test administered at home before coming to CCC for either five mornings after an exposure to a person outside their household or ten mornings after a household member receives a positive test result. Families may email a photo of the negative test through Kaymbu before bringing their child to school or show a photo at drop-off.

An exposed teacher may test at home in the morning before coming to CCC or at CCC immediately upon their arrival for the five/ten days following the exposure.

If any of the five/ten days following the exposure falls on the weekend or on a day the child or teacher does not attend CCC, the individual does not need to test. If day five of testing falls on either a Saturday or Sunday or on a day the child or teacher does not attend, the individual should test the morning they return to CCC.

**Testing at School**
Occasionally we learn during the school day that a classroom has been exposed to COVID. In these cases, children over the age of two will be tested at school (children under the age of two will still need to be tested at home), with the following protocols being followed:

- Testing will happen outside the classroom;
- Testing will be conducted by CCC staff members; and
- A record will be kept of test results.

**Obtaining Tests**
In partnership with the Department of Early Education and Care, Neighborhood Villages is providing licensed Massachusetts childcare providers like CCC with free antigen tests to use in RCT. Families and staff may obtain these tests from their program director.

**Exemptions to RCT**
Individuals who have had COVID in the past 90 days are not required to participate in RCT to stay in school following a COVID exposure.

For more information on RCT, please contact your program director.