

# COVID-19 and Shared Custody

## Public Health Considerations for Parents

These tips and recommendations are designed for families sharing custody of children. They are not intended to be used as legal guidance – despite the challenging circumstances we face, all parties are still required to follow court orders. Governor Evers’ Safer at Home Order specifically exempts travel “to transport children pursuant to a custody agreement.” If you have questions or concerns about your existing order, please contact your family court commissioner.

**My ex-spouse and I share custody of our child/children. What if I receive my child from my ex and they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or are known to have tested positive for COVID-19?**

**If your child has been exposed to COVID-19**, the following steps are recommended by [DHS](#) and the [CDC](#):

- Call your child’s doctor.
- Watch for and monitor [symptoms](#) (for both you and your child).
- Follow DHS guidance for self-quarantining and [monitoring](#) (for both you and your child).

Per the [CDC](#), the symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. However, children with confirmed COVID-19 have generally presented with mild symptoms. Reported symptoms in children include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported.

**If your child has symptoms of COVID-19**, [DHS](#) and [CDC](#) guidance for sick persons and caregivers should be followed. This includes both of you staying home, monitoring and self-quarantining for 14 days.

**If your child has tested positive for COVID-19**, these [DHS](#) recommendations should be followed. This includes self-quarantining and monitoring for 14 days.

In addition to the above, follow the CDC [prevention](#) and [disinfection](#) guidelines to keep you and your family safe.

### **Additional Resources for Families With Shared Custody**

[Seven Guidelines for Parents who are Divorced/Separated and Sharing Custody of Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Association of Family and Conciliation Courts](#)



Wisconsin Department of  
Children and Families