

Sharing Child Custody and Co-Parenting during COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic may be challenging to parents who are not living together but are co-parenting their children. Below are some tips to help you work together during this stressful time.



Stick to the court-ordered parenting schedules as much as possible

- Regular parenting time and custody schedules should be kept unless someone is self-isolating or under quarantine.
- If you think the other parent is not taking the necessary health precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, consider obtaining legal advice.
- Do not take advantage of this health crisis to prevent your child from having contact with the other parent.

Reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19

- To model good prevention behaviour, ensure that both homes are taking measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 such as:
 - regular hand washing
 - cleaning and sanitizing frequently touched objects
 - staying home as much as possible
 - practising physical distancing
 - wearing a face mask or covering in indoor and outdoor public spaces
 - getting vaccinated as soon as you can
- When carrying out parenting exchanges, do it where you can keep a safe physical distancing of two metres (or six feet) from the other parent, and wash your child's toys, clothing, and personal belongings each time they return from their other parent.
- Follow public health guidance if you or your child has COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- If you are caring for someone with COVID-19 or are pregnant or caring for a new baby at home and have COVID-19, ensure that you are taking measures to prevent spreading the virus.

Parenting Exchanges with a positive family member

- To prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection, it is recommended that parenting exchanges be deferred until the isolation period is over, and the person isolating is feeling better, and no longer has a fever. Although it is not recommended, child custody trumps isolation rules, meaning an exchange can still be allowed to happen if agreed upon by both parents.
- Any household members exposed to a positive case needs to complete their isolation period starting the day of the exposure to the positive case.

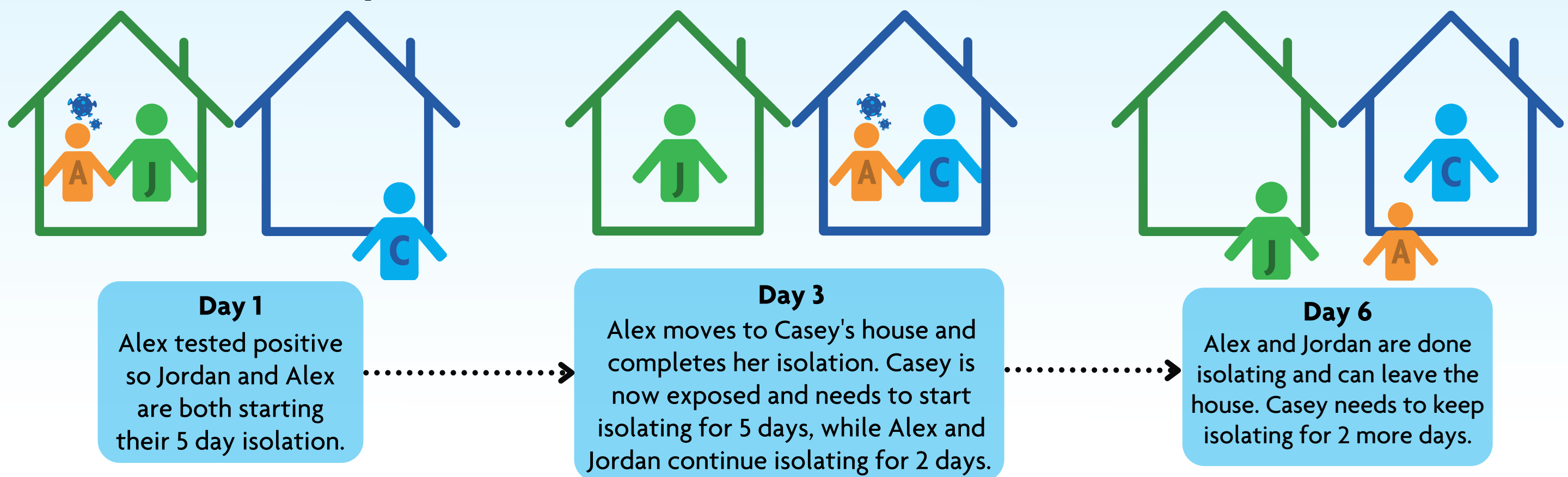
Here are three scenarios that clarify isolation guidelines during and after parental exchange:

Jordan and Casey share joint custody of their daughter, Alex. Together they have decided to maintain the agreed upon schedule despite a potential exposure to COVID-19. Alex is going from Jordan's supervision to Casey's. In these scenarios, the isolation period is 5 days.

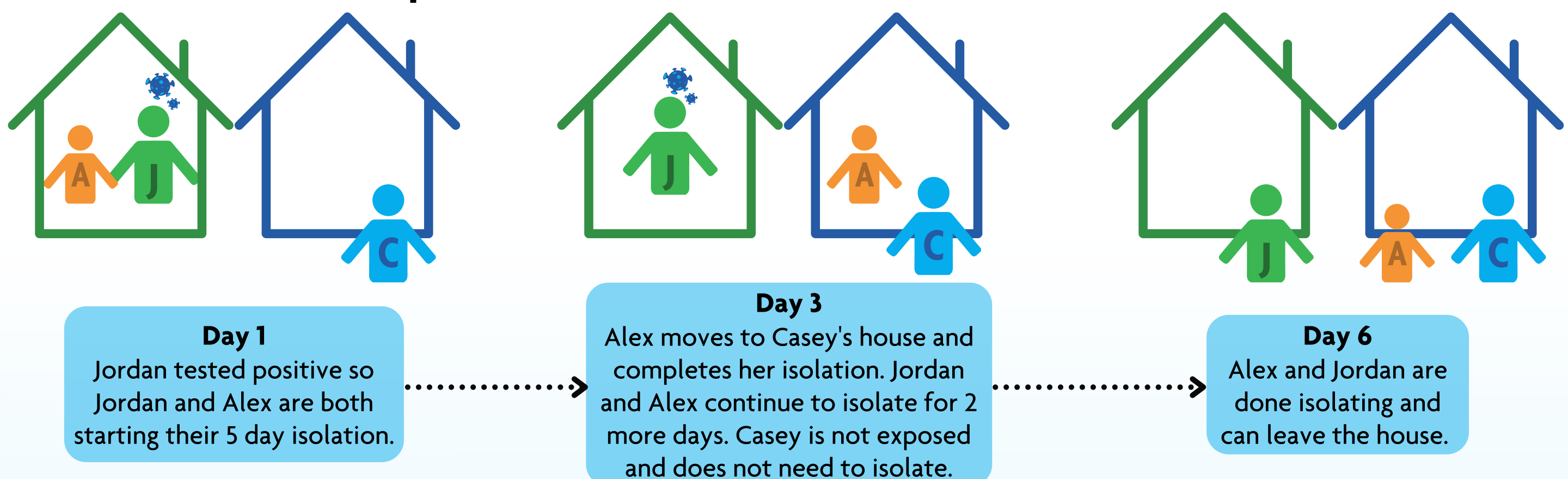
For more legal information or support

- Legal Aid Ontario: 1-800-668-8258
- Law Society of Ontario: 1-800-668-7380
- Law Society Referral Service: 1-855-947-5255

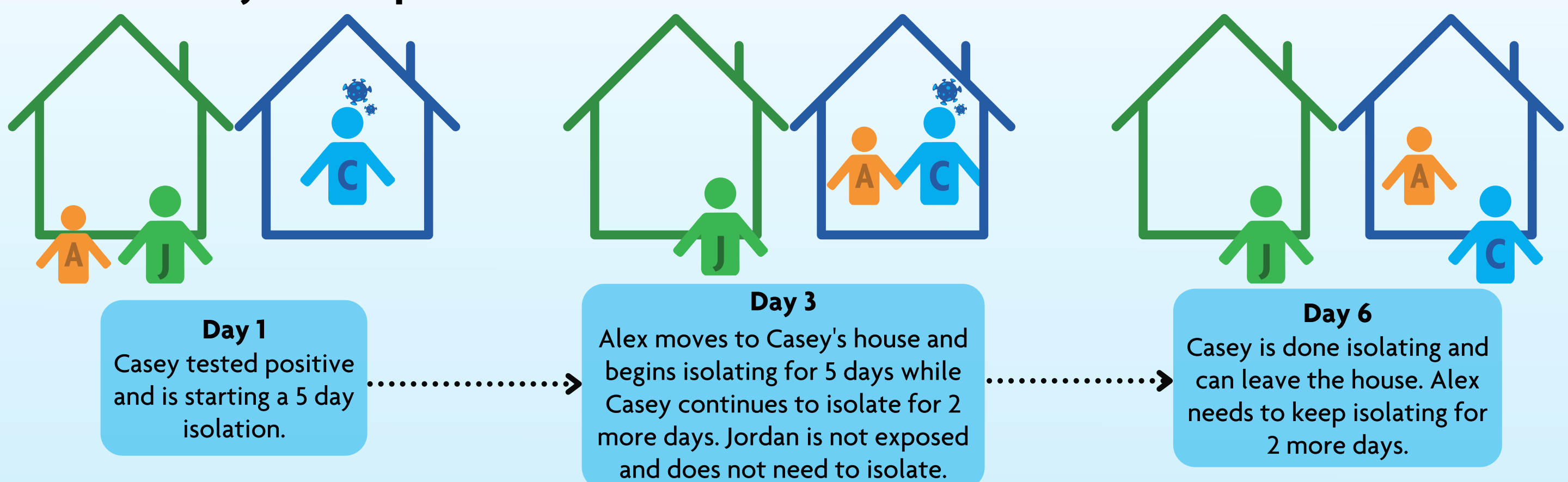
Scenario 1: Alex tested positive for COVID-19



Scenario 2: Jordan tested positive for COVID-19



Scenario 3: Casey tested positive for COVID-19



For more information, visit our website at phu.fyi/covid-support or call us at 705-360-4819 or toll free at 1-800-461-1818.