

COVID Policies for Preschool Families

August 3, 2021

Vaccines

High vaccination rates will help keep our staff, children, and families safe, and will also decrease the chances of Preschool or group closures. These factors, among others, have led to the following policy for 2021:

- All DCH Preschool staff, and all household members of children, are STRONGLY encouraged to get vaccinated for COVID-19 if eligible, unless otherwise advised by their physician. Please consult your physician with any questions regarding whether the vaccine makes sense for you and your family members.

Masks

To keep DCH Preschool as safe as possible, we are following CDC guidance and requiring masks for all adults when they are inside and around unvaccinated individuals regardless of vaccination status, and children 5 and older. We strongly recommend children ages 2-5 wear a mask as well when in doors.

Masks and cloth face coverings should be routinely washed or replaced (daily and any time the mask becomes soiled), depending on the frequency of use.

When you wear a cloth mask, it should:

- Cover your nose and mouth,
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face,
- Be secured with ties or ear loops,
- Include multiple layers of fabric,
- Allow for breathing without restriction, and
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

Travel and High-Risk Activities/Locations

Per the Massachusetts Travel Advisory from March 22, 2021, it is recommended that IF YOU ARE NOT FULLY VACCINATED and you travel out of state for more than 24 hours, upon return to Massachusetts you quarantine until you have received a negative COVID-19 result. DCH urges families to take this advice and, further, to get tested for COVID periodically, especially after being in any high-risk situations or locations. This includes testing children even if the rest of the family is vaccinated. If you are traveling out of state or to a high-risk area, please notify management for information purposes.

COVID-related Absences

- For the safety of all staff, children, and their families, please stay home with the following symptoms:
 - a. Fever (100.0° and higher), feverish, had chills

- b. Cough**
- c. Sore throat**
- d. Difficulty breathing**
- e. Gastrointestinal distress (Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea)**
- f. New loss of taste or smell**
- g. New muscle aches**

- The following symptoms, if observed in combination with symptoms from above are cause for immediate isolation and exclusion from school:
 - a. Fatigue**
 - b. Headache**
 - c. Runny nose or congestion (not due to other known causes, such as allergies)**
 - d. Any other signs of illness**
- Return policy after out for symptoms: If prohibited from coming to school due to COVID symptoms, children cannot return until they have provided a doctor's note or a negative (PCR) test result. If your doctor gives you an alternative diagnosis (strep throat, ear infection, etc.), you cannot return to school until you have met the return guidelines for that condition.
- Exposure: If your child is a close contact of a confirmed positive case, they can return to school under the following circumstances:
 - Test on day 5 after exposure; if the test is negative and they have no symptoms, children can return on day 8; OR
 - If you choose not to test, children must quarantine for 10 full days with no symptoms
- Tuition Policy:
 - Full tuition is collected/retained if:
 - A child is out sick or sent home for any symptoms (as usual)
 - A child is out sick while seeing a doc/waiting for test results
 - Your family has traveled out of state and is subject to a quarantine order awaiting test results
 - 50% of tuition is refunded if:
 - A child is out because they tested positive and must stay out per regulation
 - A child is exposed to an infected child or teacher at school and must stay out per regulations
 - A child was exposed to an infected family member or other close contact outside of DCH and must stay out per regulations
 - Local, state, or federal orders require the Preschool or classroom close