

Covid-19 Special Protocols 2021-2022

We had such success last year in keeping our school free from Covid-19, and that success was due mostly to the incredible support and cooperation of our school families! We are looking forward to a 2021-2022 school year that is even better than last year.

Because the Delta Covid-19 variant is different than last year's variant and spreads a little more easily among children, we need your help so that we can keep our classes open, keep our children healthy, and to protect our little ones who are too young to get vaccinated. The following outlines ECP's protocols for dealing with Covid-19 as we begin this school year. Thank you for trusting us with the care of your precious children! Together, we can make this a great school year!

What happens if my child gets sick or is exposed to someone with Covid-19?

ECP will follow the CDC's guidelines regarding exposures, diagnoses, and positive tests for Covid-19.

- Any child who tests positive for Covid-19 may return to school after three days with no fever ***and*** diminished respiratory symptoms ***and*** ten days from the date of the positive test.
- Call the school to report your child's illness.
- If someone in your household tests positive for Covid-19, all children in the household must stay home for 10 days from the date of the positive Covid-19 test. If another member of the household tests positive later, the 10 day quarantine restarts from the date of the most recent positive Covid-19 test result.
- If your child has a significant exposure to Covid-19 outside of your home, he/she is not required to quarantine, but close monitoring for symptoms is extremely important. If you can keep your child home as you monitor for symptoms, we encourage you to do so. The extra caution on the part of our parents last year made a huge difference in keeping Covid-19 out of our facility!

What if my child has a chronic cough or runny nose that is typical of small children but is unrelated to Covid-19?

Young children often have a cough or runny nose due to allergies, teething, or other non-contagious issues. Because respiratory issues are a symptom of Covid-19, children who are exhibiting any of these symptoms, will not be allowed to come to class unless ECP is provided with a doctor's note clearing them to come to school.

What happens if there is a case of Covid-19 in my child's class?

ECP will report any cases of Covid-19 to the proper authorities and will follow all required guidance and requirements received. Parents will be notified if their child has had an exposure and will be given instructions as to how to proceed, and the student who has tested positive must quarantine for 10 days before returning.

What about Social Distancing?

ECP's current set up lends itself very naturally to the CDC's recommendations for childcare facilities. Our classes are small, and we already do everything during the day either in our individual class or with our "cohort" (the class with whom the playground is shared). That will not change this school year.

What about masks?

- Teachers will not be required to wear masks but are welcome to do so.
- Students will not be required to wear masks but are welcome to do so if the parent requests it.
- Adults entering the building who have been vaccinated do not need to wear a mask but are welcome to do so.
- Adults entering the building who have not been vaccinated should wear a mask. Please honor this request for the safety of our little ones!

Are your teachers vaccinated?

The vast majority of our teachers are vaccinated (85%). Of the small percent who haven't been vaccinated, the vast majority of those have had Covid-19 already and still have antibodies to the virus.

Will we still have special events?

This is something that we will look at on a case-by-case basis as we go through the year but, at this time, we are planning to have all of our events as scheduled.

Are classrooms cleaned and sanitized regularly?

Our current cleaning policies meet all recommendations by the CDC. Our classrooms are cleaned and sanitized daily by custodial staff. However, in addition to that, tables are cleaned and sanitized before and after every use, chairs are cleaned and sanitized daily, and toys are disinfected daily. If very small children place toys in their mouths, those toys are cleaned and disinfected before being put back in to use. Changing tables are wiped with a bleach solution in between every diaper change.

Are there any special considerations being made for bathroom and handwashing?

Children will be using the bathrooms in their rooms (if they have one), and classrooms without bathrooms will be sharing a bathroom with only one other class. That class will be the same class that they share the playground with. Vigorous use of handwashing/ sanitizer has always been used in our classrooms and will continue to be done. Children, at minimum, will regularly wash/ sanitize upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the restroom, and after outdoor play.

Will the school year feel "normal" to my child?

Yes! ECP is fortunate in that we have always had small class sizes and most of what we do on a regular basis already falls well within the recommendations of the CDC. With a few modifications, we believe we will be able to give your children the same nurturing, play-based, developmentally appropriate education that they have received in previous years while keeping them as safe as we possibly can.