

ERS COVID Guidelines

August, 26th 2020 Update

Children who present with a fever over 100.4, or with a **new onset** cough, or who experience a loss of taste or smell (these three symptoms are referred to by the AAP as “major” symptoms) will be immediately separated from their class, and parents will be notified to pick up their child within 60 minutes. In this instance, the Program Director will provide same-day written follow-up to the parents, explaining the symptoms that were present, and requesting that the child visit a doctor prior to returning to school. In this communication, parents will also be asked to re-verify whether the child himself has had any close contact (defined as within 6 feet, for more than 15 minutes, at one time, or cumulatively over a 24 hour period) with someone who has positively tested for COVID.

- **If the answer is yes, then the child *is considered to have been potentially exposed*. The child is required to visit their doctor, and must remain out of school for 14 calendar days. Due to the potential for COVID exposure, this requirement will remain in place even if the child has visited a doctor, and even if a negative COVID test is produced within the 14-day period.**
- If the parents certify that the child *has not been potentially exposed*, then the child can return to school once they have visited a doctor, and once they are fever-free, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours. A doctor’s note is not required for the child to return to school in this instance; however, due to the presence of a major COVID symptom, we do request that you visit your doctor, and follow any guidance provided. If the doctor orders a COVID test, we request that your child remain out of school until the results are returned. (Consistent with previously issued guidance, in the event of a positive test a child is required to remain out of school for 14 days; any other children in the household will also be unable to return to school during this timeframe).

Children who present with potential COVID symptoms other than those above - to include runny nose/”sniffles”, sore throat, upset stomach, fatigue, diarrhea, body aches, or shortness of breath (referred to by the AAP as “minor” COVID symptoms) - will be subject to ERS’s traditional illness policies (see [Community Handbook](#), p.18).

- A child who presents with one of these symptoms will not be sent home from school, unless their symptom would typically require removal from school (such as diarrhea or vomiting, or fatigue that prevent them from participating in daily activities).
- In these instances, the child will not be required to see a doctor; the child can return to school once the symptom has subsided.
- **If the child presents with a “minor” symptom, and has been potentially exposed to COVID, then they will be required to remain out of school for 14 days. (This requirement is due to the exposure, and not due to the symptom itself).**

Last, an update to our fever policy (which represents a return to our long-standing fever policy):

- Children must be fever-free for **24** hours (not 48) without the use of fever-reducing medicines, and must also be free of any signs of fever (chills, flushed appearance, sweating) for **24** hours before they are eligible to return to school.