

COVID POLICY UPDATES - December 22, 2020

The following updates to the ERS Covid Policies represent the most current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). They were compiled in consultation with Dr. John Farrell, of Farrell Pediatrics and the AAP Return to School Task Force for Virginia.

As we continue to learn more about the virus and its mitigation, we will continue to do our best to provide clear and current guidance.

The policies and procedures outlined below supersede the statements on these topics found in our previous documents.

FACE COVERINGS:

- All students 2 and older must come to preschool or enrichment programs prepared to wear a properly fitting mask:
 - Indoors:
 - At all times except when eating or sleeping
 - Outdoors:
 - At the teachers' discretion, based on proximity to peers and staff.
 - Masks must stay over child's nose and mouth without noticeable gaps on sides
 - When outdoors on cold days, a balaclava may be used in lieu of a mask
 - At least two clean face coverings (mask and/or balaclavas are included in this requirement) must be provided daily.
 - If a mask from home does not fit properly or becomes soiled, the school will provide a disposable mask.

DEFINITION OF CLOSE CONTACT:

- Close Contact, as used in this policy and any previous policies, refers to the most recent Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Definition of Close Contact: Being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, or having direct exposure to respiratory secretions.

TRAVEL AND GATHERINGS:

- If you choose to travel with your child or gather locally with people from outside of your household (thus widening your "bubble"):
 - Your child must stay home from school for 14 days following the last day of travel/contact
 - OR
 - Provide the school with a negative COVID test. **See *TESTING* section below for guidance on obtaining the proper testing for your circumstances**

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR QUARANTINE

In addition to the Criteria for Quarantine outlined in **TRAVEL AND GATHERINGS (above)** and **SICK CHILD INFORMATION AND RETURN TO SCHOOL CRITERIA (below)**:

- If a household member is required to quarantine for any reason* you must:
 - Keep your child home from school for the duration of the household member's 14 day quarantine
 - OR
 - present a valid negative COVID test result for the person under investigation (the exposed household member) **See *TESTING* section below for guidance on obtaining the proper testing for your circumstances**

*Currently, VDH recommends quarantining/testing after travel

TESTING

- If there is **no known exposure** but there has been contact with individuals outside of the family's bubble due to travel or visitors and the individual is **asymptomatic**:
 - A PCR test is required 5 days after travel or the last contact with the "bigger bubble"
- If there is **known exposure** and the individual is **asymptomatic**:
 - A PCR test is required on day 5-7 after the exposure*
- If there is **known exposure** and the individual is **symptomatic**:
 - An antigen test may be used 1-5 days after exposure*

**In both of these cases, since there was a known exposure, the individual must quarantine for the full 14 days following the exposure, regardless of the test results, due to the possibility of false negative test results.*

SICK CHILD INFORMATION AND RETURN TO SCHOOL CRITERIA:

- **If a child shows signs of illness at school**, parents will be notified immediately to retrieve their child and provided with this [SICK STUDENT NOTIFICATION FORM](#), completed by ERS staff, which outlines the signs and symptoms observed at school. Please contact your healthcare provider and present them with the form.
- **In order to return to school after an illness**, your healthcare provider will need to complete and sign this [PERMISSION TO RETURN TO SCHOOL/CHILDCARE](#) form. This form must be returned to us prior to your child's return to school after an illness.
- *All information on these forms with regard to illness policy and return to school criteria supersede our previous policy statements and updates. These forms represent the most current guidance put forth by the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on Return to School Policy.*

MIXING OF CLASS GROUPINGS

- There will be no mixing of our Toddler Group (Acorns) with our Early Childhood Groups (Sassafras, Chipmunks), to the extent possible
- Early Childhood subgroups (Sassafras and Chipmunks) may occupy the same outdoor space. Staff will maintain at least 6 feet of distance between them, and students and staff will wear masks when sharing the same outdoor space.
- Early Childhood subgroups will not mix when occupying indoor spaces, to the extent possible.