



## ERCDC COVID-19 Policies

(Updated August 2023)

ERCDC follows a conservative approach to COVID-19 mitigation based on the CDC Community Levels. This is in an effort to keep our students, staff, and families as safe as possible in ever-changing times.

Please note that while COVID-19 vaccines are not currently required for children under 5, we strongly encourage them as vaccination is the best safeguard against serious illness.

### **Everyday prevention measures:**

#### Regardless of COVID-19 Community Level / Low Community Levels

- COVID-19 vaccination  
(Mandatory for ERCDC staff, highly recommended for all students ages 6 months and older)
- Staying home when sick (see ERCDC illness policy)
- COVID-19 diagnostic testing when symptomatic or after possible exposure
- Isolation (for symptomatic or COVID-19 positive people)
- Quarantine (for people exposed to COVID-19 based on vaccination status)
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Optimizing indoor ventilation and air quality
- Regular cleaning and disinfection

### **Enhanced prevention measures:**

#### For Medium **or** High COVID-19 Community Levels

- Prevention measures listed in above *and*
- Masks/respirators mandatory
- COVID-19 screening testing

#### For High COVID-19 Community Levels

- Prevention measures listed in above *and*
- Avoiding crowding in the facility
- Prioritizing outdoor activities
- Cohorting



## **Additional Facility Responsibilities**

### Contact identification and communication

When a case of COVID-19 is identified at a school or childcare facility, contact identification will be carried out by ERCDC administration to identify and dismiss potential close contacts.

ERCDC will use Procure messaging to notify individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19 at the facility.

Contact identification will focus on COVID-19 cases who started having symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 5 days. Contact notification will focus on those who were exposed in the last 5 days.

### ERCDC will share the following with potentially exposed staff and parents/guardians of potentially exposed students:

- Education about COVID-19, including the signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Referral to guidance for close contacts of a person confirmed to have COVID-19 Quarantine and testing, available at [coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance)
- Information on options for COVID-19 testing in the District of Columbia, available at [coronavirus.dc.gov/testing](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testing).

**The privacy of the staff or student must be maintained.** We cannot disclose the name of anyone who tested positive.

## **Reporting**

All DC schools and childcare facilities must:

- Notify DC Health if they have 25 or more confirmed COVID-19 cases tied to a single event that occurred at or was hosted/sponsored by the facility.
- Notify DC Health by submitting an online form on the DC Health COVID-19
- Notified DC Health on the same day the outbreak was reported to the facility, as soon as possible after the facility was notified.

Note: Childcare facilities licensed by OSSE must report any instance of communicable disease, including COVID-19, to OSSE by submitting an unusual incident report, as required by OSSE licensing regulations.



### **Quarantine after close contact in their household**

ERCDC requires quarantine when a child has been in close contact with someone in their household who has COVID-19.

Children under 2 years of age need to quarantine for 10 days.

Children 2 and older should quarantine for 5 days and do a home test on day 6. The child may return to ERCDC on day 6 after exposure if completely asymptomatic and tested negative.

If a child tests positive on day 6 they need to continue to isolate for the duration of 10 days and may only return to the center with a negative test result and completely asymptomatic.

Regardless of vaccination status, if a close contact develops symptoms, they should isolate and get tested immediately. Children or staff members may only return to the center with a negative test result and completely asymptomatic.

### **Child tests positive for COVID-19**

When a child tests positive for COVID-19, ERCDC requires that the child remains home for 10 days even if they don't have symptoms.

Children who tested positive, may return to ERCDC on day 11 after the positive test result or onset of first symptoms. ERCDC requires a negative test result and that the child is completely asymptomatic before their return.

We know from our classroom experience that our children are not able to consistently wear a face covering or safely social distance while in their classrooms. Because of this, we will require that children who test positive for COVID-19 stay home for 10 days regardless of their age.

### **Sick Policy/Illness**

Any student who becomes ill at school will be made comfortable until the student is picked up from ERCDC. A parent or alternate authorized person must pick up the ill child within an hour after notification. Children may be sent home if they have any specific symptoms listed below. Children must be free of all specified symptoms for at



least 24 hours WITHOUT the assistance of medication before he/she can be returned to school. These symptoms are as follows:

- A fever of 100 degrees or more
- Vomiting within the previous 24-hour period
- Diarrhea within the previous 24-hour period (including recurring episodes of diarrhea at school)
- A heavy nasal discharge indicative of infection, congested or runny nose
- A constant cough or sore throat
- Fussy, cranky behavior and generally not himself/herself
- A skin rash, excluding diaper rash
- Fatigue/Lethargic, overly tired, unusually calm or quiet
- Poor feeding or poor appetite

Following an illness, a child may return to school once he/she has a negative COVID-19 test result. An antigen test for this purpose is acceptable.

If a child has been sick at home or is excluded from the center, ERCDC requires a negative COVID-19 test before returning to the center.

If multiple children from the same classroom have tested positive, ERCDC reserves the right to close down the classroom for at least 3 days to stop any further potential spread. All children in that classroom should send a negative antigen test result to administration before returning ([diana@embassyrowchildren.com](mailto:diana@embassyrowchildren.com) or [kiley@embassyrowchildren.com](mailto:kiley@embassyrowchildren.com)).

Whenever ERCDC receives notification of a positive case of COVID-19 among the students, all parents in that class will be notified. To prevent further spread, ERCDC will require that all children who were exposed to the positive case of COVID-19 present a negative test result before returning to the center.

### **Testing**

ERCDC requires that a home test result should be sent to administration ([diana@embassyrowchildren.com](mailto:diana@embassyrowchildren.com)/ [kiley@embassyrowchildren.com](mailto:kiley@embassyrowchildren.com)) before coming to the center when children or staff has:

- Had a fever spike above 100F



- Been sick at home with any of the symptoms related to COVID-19
- Tested positive for COVID-19 (stay home for 10 days)
- Been in close contact to a member of his/her household who tested positive (stay home for at least 5 days if older than 2 and has a negative test result on day 6)
- Been in a classroom where someone has tested positive

### **Free rapid home test pick up locations**

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/rapidantigen>

### **Free PCR Test yourself DC**

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testyourself>

### **COVID-19 vaccination**

Vaccination is the most important public health intervention for ending the COVID-19 pandemic. The vaccine has been demonstrated to be safe and effective for children as young as 6 month old. The COVID-19 vaccine is widely available and free.

At this time, ERCDC is not requiring that children be vaccinated for COVID-19. We will continue to monitor requirements set by OSSE, DC Health, and the District of Columbia.

### **Free Vaccines and free testing - COVID Centers in DC**

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/get-vaccinated>

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/covidcenters>

### **References**

COVID-19 quarantine and isolation recommendations (CDC)

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Fpublic-health-recommendations.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Fpublic-health-recommendations.html)

Symptoms, testing, what to do if sick, daily activities, and more (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/determine-close-contacts.html>



Quick Guide: COVID isolation flowchart (CC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/communication/print-resources/COVID-ChildCareProgram-Flowchart-H.pdf>

To contact ERCDC management with questions or concerns regarding the COVID-19 policies outlined here:

[Diana@embassyrowchildren.com](mailto:Diana@embassyrowchildren.com)

[Elica@embassyrowchildren.com](mailto:Elica@embassyrowchildren.com)

*This policy is subject to change in the coming months based on case rates and vaccination rates.*