Introduction
CCC has now had over two years of experience with COVID and as a school has been very successful in controlling the spread of COVID in our classrooms.

In developing our protocols for moving into the summer, we have studied the advice of the CDC, the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, the Massachusetts Public Health Epidemiologist for childcare, and our Health Consultant. As a member of several professional associations of childcare providers we have had the benefit of participating in discussions around the dilemmas stemming from changes in protocols. Our decisions have been based on the best information we have at this time and are designed to prevent the spread of COVID to the unvaccinated children at CCC. As we have learned over the course of the pandemic, information and guidance can change. We will continue to update families with any changes to current protocols.

The following protocols have been developed drawing on the best information that we have at this time. We respect and appreciate that each family has its own perspective on the risks associated with the changing landscape and hope that we can continue our traditions of communication and partnership with our families.
COVID Practices & Protocols
June 30, 2022

(Please remember that these protocols are subject to change as conditions change. Existing and updated Health and Safety protocols can be found on our website www.concordchildrenscenter.org)

Limiting contact
• As much as possible each group of students will have a consistent team of teachers, assigned to work with only that group.
• Mixing of classrooms indoors will be limited, with the exception of specific, consistent and scheduled mixing of classrooms. Families will be advised if their child’s classrooms will be mixing with another classroom on a regular basis.
• Drop-off will take place outside of the building.
• Pick-up will take place in the classroom. Adults will be required to wear masks when coming into the building for pick-up and should wait outside their child’s classroom. Adults are asked to please remain in the building for 15 minutes or less when picking up children.
• Children and teachers will encourage physical distancing between individuals as much possible.
  o Teachers will remind children of our intention not to play too closely; however, we recognize and want our families to understand that it is not always possible to maintain the “3-6 foot rule”. Our program encourages cooperative play, and interventions will be made in the spirit of supporting the children’s wellbeing. Children may play outside without restrictions.

What to expect when you arrive at school
• Families will be asked to self-screen their child prior to coming to school and complete a daily attestation stating that the child is symptom free, has not been given fever reducing medication, and has followed CCC COVID policies. The attestation can be completed in the Kaymbu app.
• Children will be accompanied to their classrooms by CCC staff.

Classroom changes to reduce transmission
• Toys and materials will continue to be reduced in the classroom and limited to materials that are easily cleaned and disinfected.
• Families will provide snacks as well as lunch for their children. CCC will provide milk and water.
• CCC will use only plates and utensils sent from home, or disposable plates and utensils provided by CCC.

Maximizing outdoor time
• Classroom activities will be moved outdoors as much as possible.
• Outdoor spaces will be divided to avoid classroom mixing on the playgrounds.
• Children are not required to wear masks outdoor.

Use of masks and PPE to limit transmission
• Teachers and staff will, at a minimum, wear procedure masks (and face shields, if desired) whenever they are inside.
• Children over two years will be encouraged to wear masks when indoors. Masks will be removed for outdoor play.
• Children under two years will not be allowed to wear masks.
• Teachers will encourage children over two years to wear masks.

Responding to Illness
• Staff will actively observe and monitor children throughout the day for signs of illness.
• Each site will identify a separate space to isolate a child presenting symptoms of illness.
• If a child has a temperature of 100 degrees or more or shows symptoms of COVID, the parents will be contacted to immediately pick up the child. The CCC Program Director will follow up with the family. Any household members of the sick child at CCC can remain at school if they receive a negative antigen test each day until the sick child’s PCR test results are received.

Isolating and Illness
• A child, teacher or staff member who tests positive for COVID must isolate for five days (with day zero being the earlier of the positive test date or date symptoms started) and should antigen test on day five.
• A teacher may return to CCC on or after day six, provided they:
  o are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving; and
  o have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
• A child may return to CCC on day six, provided they:
  o get a negative result to an antigen test on day five;
  o are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving; and
  o have been fever-free for 24 hours.
• If a child receives a positive antigen test result on day five, they should continue to antigen test on days 6-10 until a negative result is received. At this point, the child may return to CCC the next day provided they:
  o are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving; and
  o have been fever-free for 24 hours.
• Day 11 is the latest return date for teachers and children.
• Teachers and staff who are returning to CCC after having COVID must wear an N95 mask through day 10.
• Children over the age of two who are returning to CCC after having COVID must wear a surgical mask through day 10.
• Any child or staff member who is demonstrating symptoms of COVID must get a negative result to a PCR test before returning to CCC. Antigen tests are not accepted for symptomatic individuals.

Close Contacts
• CCC teachers, staff and children who are a close contact to a COVID case inside their household may remain at CCC during their quarantine provided they:
  o receive a negative result to an antigen test administered in the morning before coming to school for 10 consecutive days (with day zero being the date of the household member’s positive test);
  o remain asymptomatic; and
  o wear a mask indoors at CCC for the 10 days of their testing (for children over the age of two, teachers, and staff).
• CCC teachers, staff and children who are a close contact to a COVID case outside their household may remain at CCC during their quarantine provided they:
receive a negative result to an antigen test administered in the morning before coming to school for five consecutive days (with day zero being their last date of exposure to the positive person);
- remain asymptomatic; and
- wear a mask indoors at CCC for the five days of their testing plus an additional five days (for children over the age of two, teachers, and staff).

- CCC teachers, staff and children who are a close contact to a COVID case and develop symptoms must get a PCR test and should stay out of CCC until they get the results.

**Hygiene and sanitation**
- Handwashing for children and staff will take place throughout the day.
- EEC mandated cleaning and sanitation procedures using EPA-registered disinfectants and sanitizers will be followed.
- If we suspect a potential exposure, we will close off all areas visited by the ill person, open outside doors and windows, and clean and disinfect the area as well as all equipment used by the ill person.

**International Travel:**
- All individuals, including children and regardless of vaccination status, who travel internationally must provide proof of a negative COVID test (PCR or rapid molecular ID NOW) taken 3-5 days after returning to Massachusetts before returning to CCC (and the individual may not attend CCC while waiting to test).
- Unvaccinated individuals must also quarantine for five days upon returning from international travel before returning to CCC.
- The CDC guidelines for international travel may be found at [U.S Citizens, U.S. Nationals, U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents, and Immigrants: Travel to and from the United States | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/travel/)

**Domestic travel:** For travel within the US, we ask families and staff to review the [CDC guidelines for domestic travel during COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/travel/). Staff are strongly urged to exercise caution while traveling and test before returning to CCC if they feel it is warranted.