



Concord Children's Center COVID Practices & Protocols: updated September 2023

Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and the regional Public Health Nurse. These protocols are subject to change as conditions evolve. Existing and updated Health and Safety protocols can be found on our website:

www.concordchildrenscenter.org

Before arriving at school

- Families are asked to screen their child for symptoms prior to coming to school and to follow CCC health policies.
- If a child exhibits mild symptoms but is fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medicines), we encourage families to test their child for COVID.
- Children who are fever free (without fever-reducing medicine) and presenting mild symptoms may come to school, unless a COVID test administered at home is positive.
- Families should use the Kaymbu messaging app to share health-related issues with their child's teachers.

General guidelines for use of masks to limit transmission

- Wearing masks inside is optional for teachers, staff, and children aged two and above.
- Any individual who wishes to mask will be supported in their choice.
- Children under two years will not be allowed to wear masks.
- Parents who would like for their child/ren to wear a mask are responsible for notifying their teachers and Program Directors of this fact.
- Masks are removed for outdoor play.
- CCC may change its mask guidance in case of increased COVID case numbers at CCC or in Middlesex County.

Responding to illness

- Staff will actively observe and monitor children throughout the day for signs of illness.
- A child or staff member who develops COVID symptoms while at CCC may remain at school if they are fever free and have mild symptoms. are tested immediately onsite, and that test is negative.
 - CCC can administer an antigen test to children over 2 years of age after receiving verbal permission from parents.
 - For children under 2, CCC will require a parent to administer a test either at CCC or at home.

- Best practice would also include wearing a mask, if possible, until symptoms are fully resolved. For symptomatic individuals, CDC recommends a second test within 48 hours if the initial test is negative.
- If the symptomatic individual cannot be tested immediately, they will be sent home.
- Once a symptomatic individual has left CCC, they may return to CCC if:
 - their symptoms remain mild, and they test negative at home, or
 - they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their symptoms are resolving, and they test negative at home, or
 - a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis.

Isolating and Illness

- A child, teacher or staff member who **tests positive** for COVID must remain at home for at least five days (with day zero being the earlier of the positive test date or date symptoms started). If they are asymptomatic OR their symptoms are resolving AND they have been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours, they may return to CCC **after day five** (i.e. Day 6 or later) and should follow the masking guidelines:
 - If the individual is **able to mask**, they must do so through Day 10.
 - If the individual has a negative test on Day 5 or later, they do not need to mask.
 - If the individual is **unable to mask**, they may return to programming on Day 6 with a negative test on Day 5, or the day after a neg test has been received, through Day 10. Individuals can return on Day 11 regardless of test results.

Close Contacts

- All exposed individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic. CCC recommends that families test exposed individuals before attending school.
- Those who can mask should do so until Day 10, and it is recommended that they test on Day 6 of exposure. If symptoms develop, follow the guidance for symptomatic individuals.
- If a CCC teacher, staff or child is in close contact protocol and is exposed to a new COVID case while in protocol, their timeline resets with the date of the most recent exposure being day zero.

The CDC has very helpful information on response to illness or close contact at this [link](#).