

EC3 COVID Response Policies: Revised 7/20/22

Given the changing nature of COVID, EC3's management team recommended updating the COVID policies and practices to reflect the latest science while adhering to our mission. In addition to updated guidance from the CDC and LARA's Child Care Licensing Bureau, we received invaluable input and support from an ad-hoc workgroup of EC3 family members. The updates represent a consensus from all these sources, combined with what we know to be practical and affordable for EC3's regular operations.

MASKING POLICIES/PROCEDURES

1. **Children:** Children over age two must wear a well-fitting mask when the community level for COVID (as determined by the ICHD) is high.
2. **Staff:** EC3 staff must wear a well-fitting mask when the community level for COVID (as determined by the ICHD) is high. They must also mask when they show signs of mild illness, such as the common cold.
3. **Other adults:** Adults entering the building must wear a mask when community level for COVID (as determined by the ICHD) is high.

SCREENING POLICIES/PROCEDURES

1. Discontinue the practice of taking temperatures at the entryway.
2. Make masks (child and adult sizes) and sanitizer available to all on the entryway table.
3. Encourage families to fully screen their children prior to arriving at EC3.
4. Adhere to EC3's current policy on illness when children or staff display symptoms of illness.











SOCIAL DISTANCING POLICIES/PROCEDURES

1. Allow family members to enter classrooms at drop-off/pick-up times, respecting the space and being mindful of the overall number of people in the room.
2. Allow more than one family member to escort children in and out of the building as needed.
3. Maintain the policy that children's cots are placed as far away from each other as allowed by classroom space.
4. Maintain the policy of attempting to avoid combining children from different classrooms, understanding that combining is sometimes necessary when we are short-staffed.
5. Maintain the policy of not moving support staffers to several different classrooms in any given day, understanding that moving staff is necessary when we are short-staffed.


QUARANTINE/ISOLATION POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Note: a “case” is someone who tests positive; a “contact” is someone who has been exposed to a case for at least 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. “Isolation” is recommended for cases; “quarantine” is sometimes recommended for contacts.

1. **Positive cases** (adult or child) must isolate away from EC3 for at least 5 days.
 - a. Adults who are vaccinated and have mild or no symptoms may return to EC3 on day 6 with strict masking
 - b. Children must isolate away from EC3 for 10 days because they cannot mask during meals and rest.
 - c. EC3 families will be notified of the case so they can make informed choices.
2. **Children who are contacts of a positive case in their household** (see the infographic for details) must quarantine away from EC3 for 4 days. Families must
 - a. monitor them closely for symptoms for 10 days
 - b. Test them on day 4 (earlier if symptoms present); if negative, return to EC3 on day 5.
3. **Children who are contacts of a positive case in community settings** (see the infographic for details, **including at EC3**, may stay at EC3. Families must
 - a. monitor them closely for symptoms for 10 days
 - b. Test them on day 4 (earlier if symptoms present); if negative, continue coming to EC3.
4. Adults (staff) who are contacts of a positive case may stay at EC3, monitoring closely for symptoms for 10 days.

	Who is Impacted	Public Health Recommendations
Isolation Has COVID-19	Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and/or displays COVID-19 symptoms (without an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test) regardless of vaccination status.	 Isolate at home for 5 days; and  If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, may leave isolation after day 5 and wear a well-fitted mask, for 5 more days (ending after day 10).* If positive with no symptoms, monitor for symptoms for 10 days as well.
 Quarantine Exposed to COVID-19	Personal or household contact , regardless of vaccination status, exposed to someone with COVID-19 (see definition below).	 Monitor symptoms for 10 days.  Test 3-7 days after exposure or if symptoms develop.  Wear a mask around others for 10 days after exposure.**  Avoid unmasked activities or activities with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.***
	Other exposure (from community, social, work setting).	 Monitor symptoms for 10 days.  Consider wearing a mask around others for 10 days after exposure; at a minimum, mask in settings with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.***  Test if symptoms develop.

* If a mask cannot be worn, recommend 10 days of home isolation.
 ** If a mask cannot be worn, individual should home quarantine for 10 days. A Test to Stay protocol may also be developed in partnership between school and local health department.
 *** Activities with immunocompromised or other high-risk individuals, social/recreational activities in congregate settings.
Personal/household contacts include individuals who share living spaces, including bedrooms, bathrooms, living room and kitchens. It also includes those who live together, sleep over, carpool or have direct exposure to respiratory secretions from a positive individual. This would include exposure in childcare settings for those under 2 years of age.


Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

NOTE: Free COVID tests may be ordered at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>

VACCINE POLICIES/PROCEDURES

1. Maintain the current policy of requiring staff to be fully vaccinated prior to hire, and to stay updated (boosted) according to CDC recommendations.
2. Strongly encourage (but do not mandate) families of children aged six months and older to vaccinate their children.

COVID SYMPTOMS POLICIES/PROCEDURES

1. If a staff member or a child has no known exposure to COVID, adhere to EC3's current policy on illness (see below) when they display symptoms of illness.

Illness [CURRENT POLICY IN FAMILY HANDBOOK]

All children and staff will be screened for illness upon arrival to EC3. In an effort to minimize the spread of illness to our children and staff, **parents are strongly discouraged from bringing children to EC3 when they display any of the following symptoms:**

- ✓ Fever over 100.4 degrees (measured under the arm)
- ✓ Difficult breathing, wheezing, uncontrolled coughing
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Diarrhea
- ✓ Unidentified rash
- ✓ Signs of possible severe illness, including unusual lethargy, persistent crying, severe pain, or anything else that will require one-on-one care
- ✓ Contagious conditions (e.g., pink eye, mouth sores with drooling, etc.)

If your child becomes ill at EC3 with any of the above symptoms, you will be called to take your child home. Generally, a child will be sent home if he/she appears contagious or is uncomfortable enough to require constant one-on-one adult attention. The teachers and directors will determine whether or not a child should remain at EC3. A child who appears contagious may be isolated from the rest of the group, under the supervision of a caregiver, until the parent can pick him/her up. Parents will receive a "Sent Home Sick" form indicating when the child may return to care. Parents are encouraged to have back-up care providers available to pick up your child when you are unavailable to due to conflicts.

In order to ensure the safety of staff and other children at the center, you must notify EC3 within 24 hours if your child is ill with a communicable/contagious disease, such as COVID-19, strep throat, RSV, conjunctivitis, fifth disease, chicken pox, or influenza.

Time at home allows your child to rest and recuperate. It also prevents infections from spreading to other children and staff members. We strongly suggest that alternate arrangements be planned prior to those occasions when your child is ill.

The following guidelines will be used to determine when a child can return to group care after an illness:

- ✓ The child's temperature has been below 100.4 degrees for 24 hours *without* acetaminophen or ibuprofen.
- ✓ It has been 24 hours since the last episode of vomiting and or diarrhea.
- ✓ The rash has subsided or has been confirmed in writing as non-contagious by a physician.

- ✓ The signs of possible severe illness (including lethargy, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, wheezing, severe pain, and uncontrolled coughing) have been checked and ruled out in writing by a physician.
- ✓ The child is no longer contagious, and is feeling well enough to participate comfortably in the usual activities.
- ✓ If an antibiotic has been prescribed, the child may return 24 hours after the first dosage, or sooner with a physician's note confirming them as non-contagious.

In the case of a COVID-19 infection, please refer to our COVID-19 Response Plan, which can be found on EC3's website.

Generally speaking, it is the *lack of symptoms* that indicate your child is ready to return to EC3. A note from a physician may be required. EC3 will make every effort to accommodate a child who is not ready to resume full activities after an illness upon return to the center.

If your child does not meet the above criteria for exclusion from the program, but is not feeling well, you may receive an information call from EC3. Information calls will be given when your child is running a fever of less than 100.4, and/or is exhibiting other symptoms. The information call allows you time to assess the situation and prepare accordingly.