

FEPC Preschool and Mother's Day Out Updated Guidelines for Childcare Programs 2022-2023

UPDATED COVID-19 QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION GUIDANCE (VDOE 7-15-22)

Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention for Students, Teachers and Staff in Child Care, K-12 Schools, and Day Camp Settings:

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) provides the following guidance for children, teachers, and staff in child care, K-12 schools, and camp settings. This revised guidance outlines that quarantine is no longer routinely recommended for asymptomatic individuals after exposure to COVID-19 infected individuals. In general masks are not routinely recommended in these settings, indoors or outdoors, except during isolation as specified below. Any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, may do so as an option. Masking is never recommended in these settings while the individual is eating, drinking, sleeping, or for children under the age of 2.

Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

- Symptomatic persons (regardless of vaccination status) should begin isolation at home and undergo testing as recommended by their healthcare providers. The day symptoms began should be counted as day 0.

- Persons who test positive (regardless of vaccination status) should isolate themselves at home for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to programming after Day 5, provided:
 - ❖ If the individual is able to mask, they should do so through Day 10.

 - ❖ If the individual is unable or unwilling to mask during this time (including children under age 2), VDH recommends a negative test on or after Day 6 in order to return to programming OR the person should remain home through day 10.
 - FEPC will not require masking on days 6-10 for children older than 2. Due to this policy, positive students will be required to test on the morning of day 6 and may return to school with a negative covid test, fever free and resolving symptoms.
 - FEPC will provide families with at-home testing kits upon request.

 - ❖ Schools with the resources to do so may consider offering rapid testing on-site to symptomatic individuals and/or distributing at-home rapid antigen test kits for testing at home. If a student has become sick at school, arrange for the student to be picked up, while the student waits in a separate isolation room/area.

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- For exposed but asymptomatic persons (regardless of vaccination status), quarantine is no longer recommended for the above settings. These individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic.
 - ❖ Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period or having direct contact with respiratory secretions from an infected person.
 - ❖ Masks: Students/staff that attend programming during this time may consider wearing a mask around others indoors until Day 10. FEPC will make masking optional to staff and students.
 - ❖ Testing: Schools may use Test to Stay protocols and VDH testing resources to support this testing.
 - FEPC will not participate in test-to-stay, however, we will provide at-home testing kits upon request.
 - ❖ If a student or staff person in this group has ongoing household exposure to a person with COVID-19, VDH recommends students, families and staff consider more frequent testing; please see Test to Stay protocols for more information.
 - While FEPC will not be participating in TTS protocols, students living in a household with another Covid-positive family member that they will NOT be able to isolate from, will be asked to test on days 5 and 8 of exposure. Test kits will be provided if needed.
- If the school or facility is experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 that has been difficult to control or is unusual in size or scope, regional and local epidemiologists may apply professional judgment and recommend traditional quarantine and isolation standards be applied until the situation is stabilized.

Continued previous protocols:

- ✚ Implement robust policies and procedures for handwashing and cleaning and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces.
- ✚ Conduct daily health checks of staff and children to look for symptoms of sickness or fever. Separate symptomatic individuals until they are picked up from the facility.
- ✚ Clean (with soap and water) and disinfect surface with EPA-approved disinfectants, including porous and non-porous surfaces, electronics, linens, and clothing according to the CDC's Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes and Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities.

(Please note that all comments in **BLACK** are quoted directly from the Virginia Department of Education as their recommended guidelines for childcare programs. All comments in **RED** are FEPC Preschool board approved actions for the preschool and Mother's Day Out program beginning in September 2022. Please note any comments in **PURPLE** are previous DSS guidelines that we chose to keep in place for our program.)