

9/30/2022 NOTICE

We continue to follow Washtenaw County Health Department guidance for COVID -19 preparedness with one exception: effective October 3, on a trial basis, mask use at The Discovery Center will be optional regardless of county case level. We remain “mask friendly” and encourage the use of masks when the case level is “high”. Masking rules for COVID exposures and infections are shown below.

THE DISCOVERY CENTER COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

Updated 10-3-2022

Guidelines used by The Discovery Center for COVID-19 preparedness and exposure control are based on those from the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD), as we believe it to be the best assessor of local conditions and therefore best positioned to provide guidance relative to our Ann Arbor preschool. For the WCHD’s most recent guidance, please refer to their website, <https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/27352/COVID-19-Guidance-2022-23-for-Schools-and-Childcares?bidId=>.

We strive to create a school culture of support, respect, and collaboration. In doing so, we also work together to promote best practices in hygiene, screening, testing, distancing, masking, ventilating, vaccinating, and staying home when sick to promote well-being and good health for our students, staff, and families. We have a mutual responsibility to keep each other healthy and well; adhering to the following guidelines and policies supports this goal.

Child Screening

Families are required monitor their children’s health daily and keep them home if ill. At drop-off, our staff will conduct visual assessment and checks for illness and will ask follow-up questions if needed.

If a child’s temperature is above 100.4 degrees, the child will be excluded from care. Cough and/or diarrhea in addition to fever is suggestive of coronavirus. A visual check will be performed, looking for signs of illness such as flushed cheeks, rapid or difficult breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness. The Discovery Center will continue to monitor children for symptoms throughout the day and check temperatures when children appear ill. Children with a fever alone, or a fever with a cough and/or diarrhea, will be isolated from the group and their parents contacted for prompt pickup. Their parents should contact their primary care physician/medical provider.

Families must report any child’s contact with anyone who has had a documented case of COVID-19. Families must isolate any child who has symptoms of and/or who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Staff Screening

All staff must conduct checks on their own health for COVID-19 symptoms before they enter the building each day. Symptoms of illness, including cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, change in smell or taste, and/or diarrhea, are indicators that staff should not enter the building, staying home instead and seeking medical attention, including COVID testing, where needed. In case of a positive COVID-19 test, staff must isolate in accordance with WCHD’s current guidance. Staff must report contact with anyone outside of work who has had a documented case of COVID-19.

Masks

- With the exceptions noted in the next two bullets, mask use within The Discovery Center is optional. We are “mask friendly” and encourage the use of masks when the case level within Washtenaw County is “high”.
- Anyone **exposed to COVID (whether inside or outside the classroom) but who is not infected** must wear a mask for days 1-10 after exposure.
- The section below entitled “Guidelines for COVID Infections” provides masking guidance for any individual **infected with COVID**.

Responding to Possible or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

- For children who show signs of illness, both COVID-19 and other, The Discovery Center will isolate the child in a safe location until the child can be picked up.
- If any staff begin to feel ill during the day, they must go home immediately.
- If a child, staff member, family member, or visitor becomes ill with COVID-19 (with or without symptoms), those individuals must report it immediately to The Discovery Center, which will contact the health department for next steps and its licensing consultant (where needed). Such notification will be made consistent with the confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy law.
- Staff and families of children in care are required to report to The Discovery Center if they become symptomatic or receive positive COVID-19 test results, even if they experience no symptoms.
- If 30% or more of the individuals in a classroom test positive for COVID-19, The Discovery Center will contact the WCHD for guidance, including the possible need for classroom closure.

The Discovery Center will report to the WCHD all demographic and other required information for COVID-19 cases.

Guidelines for COVID Infections

In the case of an individual with COVID symptoms or with a positive test, the individual must isolate for 5 days after the date of symptom onset (onset being day 0) and until the individual has been fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours, and may return on day 6, after receiving a negative rapid antigen test (home test OK) administered on the morning of day 6 before school and (for children) sent to classroom staff (cell phone photo OK). If the day 6 rapid test result is positive, the individual must stay home, and another home test may be administered on day 7 and subsequent days if needed until a negative result is obtained, indicating the individual is no longer contagious. Upon return, for both children and staff, the individual must wear a well-fitting mask at all times after returning except when eating and (for children) napping through day 10.

Additional Protections

- Children will remain with their classroom group at all times. There will be no mixing of classrooms. This includes all school events, outdoor play, and use of the Rainbow Room (large motor room).
- There will be head-to-toe positioning of cots for naptime, with cots spread out away from each other to the maximum extent possible.
- Outdoor play will occur regularly throughout the day for fresh air and movement.