

9/14/2022 NOTICE

We continue to follow Washtenaw County Health Department guidance for mask wearing as outlined below. Quarantine has been eliminated. Differentiated guidance for children vs. adults has been eliminated. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

THE DISCOVERY CENTER COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

Updated 9-14-2022

Guidelines used by The Discovery Center for COVID-19 preparedness and exposure control follow those put forth by the State of Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) in “Guidelines for Safe Child Care Operations During COVID-19,” the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD), the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (MIOSHA) “COVID-19 Workplace Guidelines”, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In the event of differences in guidance among these entities, The Discovery Center follows guidance from the 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, distancing, and mask usage 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.

Fever is the key indicator for young children. 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 or “not themselves.” 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.

Social Distancing

- 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.

Masks

- As noted above, while masks are now optional during times of "low" and "medium" case levels in Washtenaw County, we are "mask friendly," and masks are required when the County risk level is "high." Individuals are exempt who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing and whose ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. Parents who want their children to wear masks at all times must specify this to classroom teachers.
- When outdoors, no one is required to wear masks unless parents have specified otherwise for at-risk children.
- Mask guidance applies to all, regardless of age or vaccination status.
- Anyone exposed to COVID but who is not infected must wear a mask for days 1-10 after exposure.
- Entire classrooms must wear masks through day 10 if an individual (child or teacher) in a classroom has been diagnosed 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 individuals in a classroom are identified with a positive test for COVID-19, The Discovery Center will contact the WCHD for guidance. In addition, the classroom will be closed

and cleaned, and children in that classroom who aren't fully vaccinated will be advised to quarantine (or isolate if they have tested positive for COVID) and to return only when they have met WCHD criteria for return.

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

Guidelines for COVID Exposures and Infections

NOTE: Because of the evolving nature of public health guidelines, this section may change with or without prior notice.

Exposures, but no symptoms and no positive test. In the case of close contact exposure (at least 15 minutes in a 24-hour period) to a COVID-positive individual and no symptoms and no positive test result, children and staff must wear masks in school for five days after the exposure began, with day 1 being the day of the close contact positive test (or symptoms) and mask wearing continuing through day 5.

Infections with positive test and/or symptoms. 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.

Summary

In summary, we continue to follow current WCHD guidance. At this time, the guidance doesn't differentiate by vaccinated or unvaccinated status, nor by age (adult or child). Quarantine has been eliminated.