

Attachment A COVID Procedures

NOTE: COVID Procedures are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Chevy Chase United Methodist Church, and the Advisory Council of CCUMC Preschool and are valid beginning January 25, 2022. These procedures are subject to change. Changes in procedures will be communicated to families in a written format.

Arrival

All persons admitted to the building will need a face mask which covers the chin, mouth and nose entirely. As of January 25, 2022, it is recommended that all students and staff wear well-fitting KN95 masks (or their equivalent) for their protection and the protection of others. We request that children arrive at school already masked. Parents/caregivers who walk their child to school are requested to maintain social distancing from non-household members as much as possible. We ask that any parents/caregivers who are quarantining or isolating for COVID not accompany their child to school, if possible.

Parents should conduct a health screening of their children each morning by answering the following questions:

1. Does your child have any symptoms of COVID-19: (defined as of January 25, 2022 to include fever (100.4 or above) or chills, cough (either new or different than usual), shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, the new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea?)
2. Is anyone in your home waiting for a COVID-19 test result, diagnosed with COVID-19, or instructed by a health care provider or the health department to isolate or quarantine?
3. In the last 14 days, has your child had close contact (within 6 ft for at least 15 min) with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19?

Any positive answers to these may result in your child being excluded from school and should prompt parents to get in touch with one of the Administrators to discuss the situation. Further information may be needed to make that determination so the best means of contacting the administrators is via text or phone. Once admitted into school children will continue to be monitored during the school day for the emergence of COVID like symptoms.

(Staff members perform a similar health screening prior to the beginning of the day.)

Masks

As of January 25, 2022, the Maryland State Department of Education recommends that children and staff wear KN95 masks or their equivalent to combat the spread of COVID. All masks must cover the mouth, chin and nose entirely. Children and staff will wear masks inside the building throughout the school day unless eating. We request that

families provide 2 or more extra masks to have on hand in case the mask needs to be changed during school. In general, children will remain masked outside on the playground in recognition of the fact that preschoolers do not maintain social distancing with one another. However, in cases where children are having any difficulties breathing, the teacher will ask that child to sit down for a mask break during which time the child will be seated at a reasonable distance from others.

The Administration and Advisory Council, the governing board of the Preschool, look forward to the day when our children and staff no longer need to wear masks either outside or inside the preschool. In making decisions about masking, the Advisory Council must weigh many factors including, but not limited to: regulatory agency oversight from the State of Maryland, Montgomery County, Office of Child Care and CCUM Church; advice from medical advisors; the current community infection and transmission rates for COVID; staff and parent opinions as received through surveys; and the eligibility of children to obtain vaccination against COVID.

The Building

The heating and cooling units within each classroom are fitted with HEPA filters maintained by CCUM Church in alignment with advice obtained from Kynoch Environmental Management, Inc. (KEM), which conducted a survey of the preschool's facilities and made recommendations for best practices for mitigation of COVID. In accordance with their recommendations, each classroom maintains an open window to provide additional air flow. When possible, each classroom also maintains an open classroom door.

Our classrooms and common spaces are cleaned daily by our custodial staff who have been trained in COVID mitigation strategies by KEM. Toys utilized during the day are disinfected daily by running them through our commercial dishwasher. Likewise, softer items like dress up clothes are laundered with frequency.

Eating & Social Distancing

Students will be unmasked to eat snack and, for those who participate in the Extended Day Program, lunch. We recognize the increased risk for transmission of COVID when children are unmasked. While it would be ideal to have students eat outside, CCUMC has limited fenced outdoor space so it is not possible to have all classes eat outdoors daily. When feasible due to weather and safety concerns, many teachers do have their children eat snack or lunch outside. When it is not possible to eat outdoors, teachers space their children to allow for as much room as possible between children. If there are children returning from isolating or quarantine from having COVID or being exposed to someone with COVID prior to Day 10—see the COVID isolation/quarantine policies—these children will be seated at least 6' away from other children and ventilation, if possible, will be increased during the time of eating.

Social distancing of 3-6' within the preschool classroom will not be maintained. It is difficult, perhaps impossible, for young children to maintain that distancing themselves and is at odds with promoting the social interactions that are vital to the preschool experience. Therefore, other mitigation strategies: frequent handwashing, wearing a well-fitting mask properly and consistently, increasing ventilation, cohorting students, and following guidance for the exclusion of sick students and staff are important to follow.

Cohorting

As much as possible students and staff from one classroom do not mix with students or staff from other classrooms. Each class maintains its unique time for music, playground time or other enrichment classes. In the case where two classes are on the playground at the same time, they each occupy separate spaces and utilize separate equipment. Students who are enrolled in the Extended Day Program are enrolled only with students from their morning class.

An exception to cohorting is made only for staff all of whom are fully vaccinated. Staff who teach the Extended Day Program require a lunch break during the day. Staff from other classes come into the class to monitor the children during the time when the teachers are on their break. When staff members take a day off from work, we provide substitute teachers some of whom may have been with a different class the day before. Likewise, the administrators of the preschool are in frequent contact with students in each classroom for purposes of supporting the teachers and the students.

Parent Participation

Parent participation is a vital part of the CCUMC Preschool experience. However, due to regulations and recommendations for mitigating the spread of COVID, parents have not been allowed inside the preschool building on a regular basis since March 2020. In the fall of 2021 regulators began permitting outdoor field trips to resume for preschoolers. As a result, parent participation has resumed at this time to include chaperoning on field trips. For parents to participate, they must complete the required paperwork (i.e., Sexual Misconduct Form, Release of Information Form, Parent Medical Report) and submit evidence of being fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

COVID Exclusion Guidance: Isolating and Quarantining Policies

Persons Who Tested Positive for COVID-19 or Have Symptoms, Regardless of Vaccination Status (Isolation)

Anyone 5 years of age and older, regardless of vaccination status who tests positive for COVID must:

- Stay home, isolate, wear a well-fitting mask around others in your home for at least 5 full days from the date of symptom onset if symptomatic or the date of the positive test if no symptoms.

(Day 1 is considered the first full day after symptoms started in symptomatic persons or the first full day after the person tested positive if asymptomatic.)

- After Day 5, if the person has no symptoms or if symptoms are improved and they have had no fever for at least 24 hours without medication, they may return to school/work PROVIDED that an at home antigen test given on Day 6 is negative. If the antigen test is positive, they must continue to isolate until a negative antigen test is achieved or Day 10 of the isolation period is reached. When the person returns s/he must wear a well-fitting mask (i.e., KN95 mask or its equivalent) until Day 10 of the isolation period.

Anyone under 5 years of age who tests positive for COVID should isolate at home for 10 days. On Day 11 if you have no symptoms, or if your symptoms have improved AND you have been fever free for at least 24 hours without any fever reducing medication, then you may return to school. You must continue to stay home and isolate if you still have symptoms that are not improving and should consult a health care provider before ending isolation.

Persons who become sick with COVID like symptoms (i.e., presumed positive) (currently defined in 1/25/22 guidance to include fever or chills, cough (either new or different than usual), shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, the new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea) should:

Isolate at home until they receive negative results for a PCR test AND their symptoms have improved with no fever for 24 hours without any fever reducing medication.

Illness Policy

Any child who becomes sick, with one or more Covid like symptoms (currently defined in the January 25, 2022, guidance to include fever or chills, cough (either new or different than usual), shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, the new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea) while attending CCUMC Preschool, will immediately be removed from the class, placed into an isolation area and parents contacted to pick up the sick child as soon as possible. The remainder of the students in the class will finish out the school day. The sick child will quarantine until the sick child receives a negative PCR Covid test result or a specific alternate diagnosis by a physician. The sick child needs to receive a test result promptly for class decision making. If a PCR Covid test results cannot be obtained that day, an at home antigen test can be a first test to help determine class exposure risk. If the antigen test is negative, then the class may return to school as normal on subsequent days. If the child receives a positive test result, the class will begin quarantining in accordance with quarantine guidelines. Parents are expected to watch their children closely for any onset of symptoms.

The guidance above also applies to staff members who may become sick while at school with one or more COVID like symptoms.

Persons Who Are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 and Have No Symptoms (Quarantine)

For someone who is FULLY vaccinated (at least 5 years of age) OR someone who has tested positive for COVID within the last 90 days (at least 5 years of age).

These persons do not need to quarantine but should:

- Wear a well-fitting mask (i.e., KN95 or its equivalent) around others for 10 days after the last close contact with the person with COVID-19 (Day 1 is considered the first full day after the date of last close contact)
- If, at any time the person tests positive or develops symptoms they should stay home and follow recommendations for isolation above.

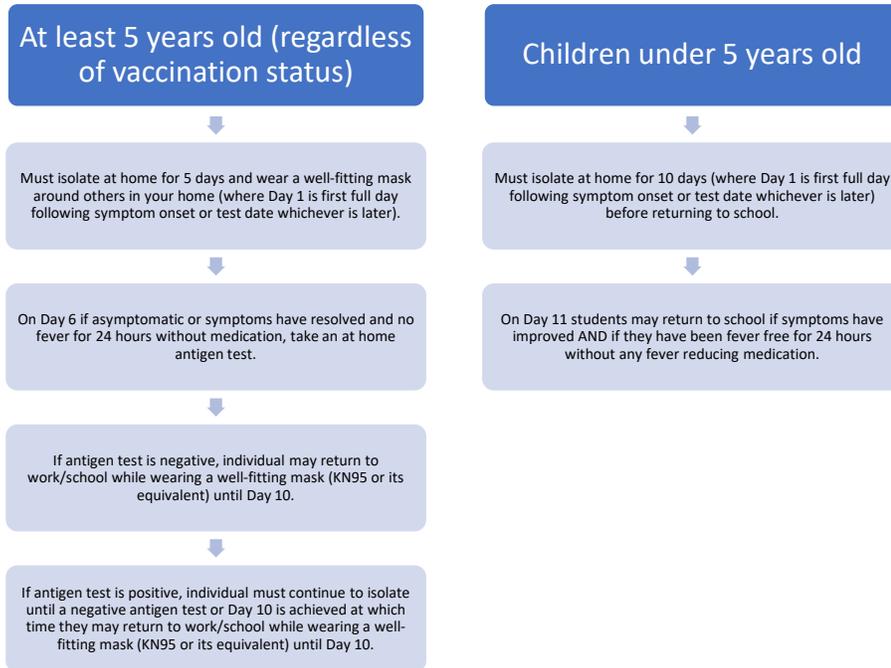
For someone who is NOT vaccinated AND has no symptoms OR someone who has tested positive for COVID within the last 90 days (and is under 5 years of age).

These persons should quarantine as follows:

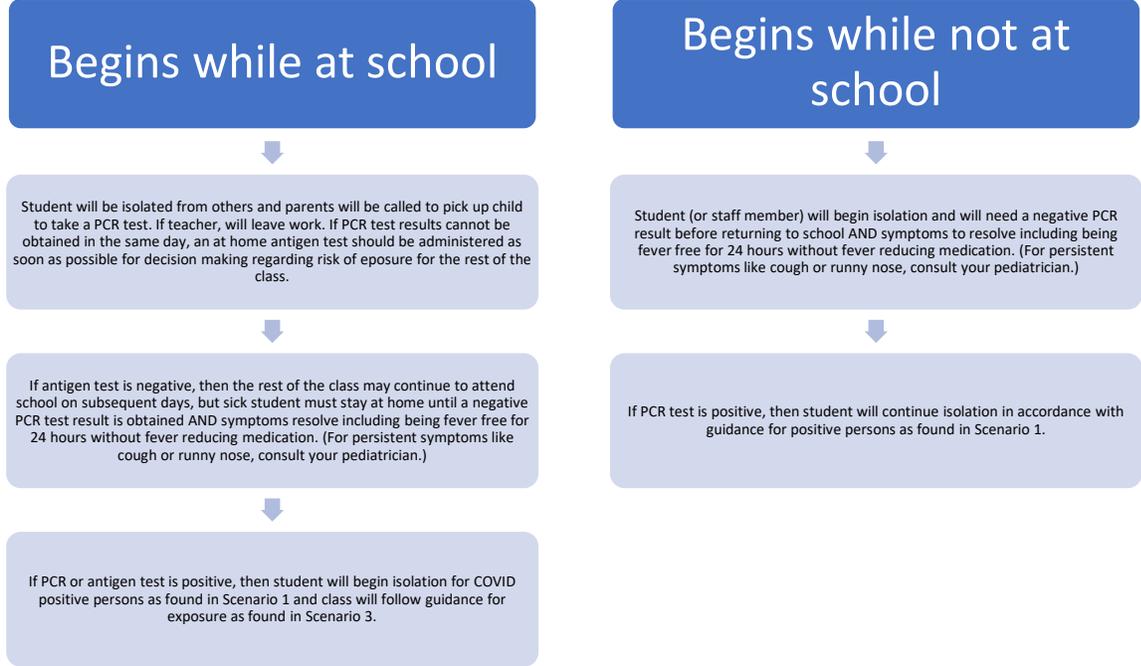
- Stay home for at least 5 days after the last close contact with the person with COVID-19 (Day 1 is considered the first full day after the date of last close contact)
- If no symptoms, get tested with a PCR test on Day 5-10 after the last close contact (persons who have tested positive for COVID 90 within the last 90 days should get an antigen test rather than a PCR test).
 - If the person tests negative, they may return to school PROVIDED they wear a well-fitting mask (i.e., KN95 or its equivalent) when around others until Day 11 after close contact
 - If the person tests positive, they should follow the recommendations for isolation above
- If the person develops symptoms they should get tested immediately and remain at home; if the test is positive, they should follow the recommendations for isolation above
- If the person is unable to mask around others, they should remain at home for 10 days from the date of last close contact.

Visual Aids for COVID Decision Making

Scenario 1: Someone is confirmed to be COVID positive



Scenario 2: Someone has one or more symptoms of COVID which, as of January 6, 2022 is defined to include fever or chills, cough (either new or different than usual), shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, the new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.



Scenario 3: A person has been exposed to someone who is COVID positive AND has no symptoms*.

*Persons with COVID like symptoms should follow the guidance for scenario 2.

