

UCP COVID/Wellness Protocols  
August 2022

UCP will be incorporating the guidelines set out in the NCDHHS Public Health Toolkit for Childcare along with our protocols for student wellness. These protocols are supplemental to our Parent Handbook and may be updated throughout the year. The Toolkit still recommends that preschool kids be outside as much as possible, so UCP will start the school year primarily outside.

**VACCINATIONS**- All UCP teachers are required to be up to date on COVID vaccinations. It is *strongly* recommended that all children who are eligible to be vaccinated go ahead and do so as this is one of the most important mitigation measures to protect individuals from complications resulting from COVID infections. The NCDHHS Toolkit encourages schools to keep COVID vaccination status on file for each student and staff member. **We ask all parents to submit a photocopy of their child's COVID vaccination card to the director** to be filed with other health forms.

**MASKING**- With the current COVID Community Level being high in Orange County, masking for healthy staff and students at UCP is **recommended but not required while outside**. Families and staff who opt to wear masks outside will of course be supported. If you **opt to have your child mask outside, please email me** so I can track preferences and pass these on to teachers. **Masks are required inside the building**. If/when the church changes to masks being optional inside their building, the UCP Board will reconsider our policy for indoors. If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID, they will need to stay out of school for 5 days following symptom onset in symptomatic persons or from a positive test result in those without symptoms. If symptoms have resolved, the staff or student may return to school on day 6 but are required to wear a well-fitted mask at all times through day 10 from symptom onset or the positive test result.

**VENTILATION**- When we do go inside we will have air purifiers running in each of the classrooms. Windows will also be opened to increase ventilation.

**EXPOSURES**- If a child has been exposed to a family member or anyone else who has tested positive for COVID, the child will need to be symptom-free and have a negative rapid or PCR test result in order to come to school. If the exposure was to someone who lives in the child's house, the child will need to have a negative rapid test done each morning before school for the duration of the family member's illness because the exposure is ongoing. The child will also need to mask for 15 days with a positive household contact (5 additional days beyond contact's 10 days of isolation and masking). As long as the child remains symptom-free and tests negative, they may come to school. If the exposure was a one-time exposure, it is recommended that the child be monitored for symptoms and that testing be done on day 5 after the exposure. As long as the child remains symptom-free and has negative test results, they may come to school but will need to wear a mask for 10 days past the exposure.

**HYGIENE**- All children will wash or sanitize their hands when they get to school and before eating.

**SYMPTOM MONITORING**- Children and staff should never come to school if they are sick; parents should carefully monitor their children for any symptoms of COVID (runny nose, congestion, fatigue, headache, cough, sore throat, body aches, fever or chills, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, vomiting, diarrhea), or any other illness like stomach bugs or pink eye. The presence of any of the symptoms above generally suggests a person has an infectious illness and should not attend school, regardless of whether the illness is COVID. If symptoms appear, the child or staff member should not come to school and should contact their pediatrician or physician for guidance.

- If any symptoms appear AND there has been a known exposure to COVID, the individual is presumed to be positive for COVID and should stay out of school for at least 5 days, returning when symptom-free and wearing a mask for days 6-10.
- If there are symptoms but no known exposure, the individual needs to stay out of school until symptoms resolve and a negative test result (rapid or PCR) is needed before the child can return to school. If using home tests, UCP requires 2 negative tests 24-48 hours apart. If the only symptom is a runny nose, the discharge is clear and thin, and there has been no known exposure, we ask the family to consult with their pediatrician's office to determine if testing is recommended before the child attends school.
- If a child becomes symptomatic at school, we must remove the child from the class and ask for them to be picked up from school so that a pediatrician can be consulted and/or testing done. Staff will also leave the school if they become symptomatic during the day and substitutes will fill in.
- Our health policy for digestive symptoms continues to be that a child needs to have any vomiting or diarrhea completely resolved for at least 24 hours before they can return to school regardless of any testing results.