

UPDATED COVID INFORMATION *This updated information came to us from the NJDOH and our local health department as of 2/22/22.*

Masks: As per the most recent guidelines from the CDC and the NJDOH, because of the inability to maintain physical distancing within classrooms, the age and behaviors of our young children, and the fact that most of our children are too young to be vaccinated, the use of face masks continue to be **recommended**.

As of March 7, 2022, the state mandate **requiring** universal masking in childcare centers will expire, and we are able to determine the best plan of action based on these updated guidelines. At CCNS, we will be **recommending** masking for staff and children (over two years old) but it will no longer be **required**.

As per the NJDOH, masks will be **required** by all only under the following circumstances;

During periods of elevated community transmission – when COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) is elevated, NJDOH recommends universal masking for all children and staff in regions with:

o CALI scores of high (orange) - centers should strongly consider universal masking for all attendees and staff, especially if there is difficulty incorporating other layered prevention strategies (e.g., adequate ventilation, adequate spacing of children).

o CALI score of very high (Red) – childcare centers should require universal masking for all children and staff.

- During an active outbreak – during an outbreak or a general increase in cases, we will consult with our local health department as to whether short-term universal masking or masking in affected rooms/classrooms should be required to control the outbreak/increase in cases.
- After returning from isolation or quarantine – children ages 2 years and older and staff who return to childcare during days 6-10 of isolation or quarantine will be required to mask. See COVID-19 exclusion criteria for close contacts (quarantine) guidance below.
- When illness occurs in childcare – children ages 2 and older or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in the center should wear a mask if tolerated, until they leave the premises.
- Unvaccinated staff who work with children or infants who are not yet eligible for vaccination.

EVEN IF YOU DECIDE THAT YOUR CHILD WILL NO LONGER WEAR A MASK TO SCHOOL, IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT YOU LEAVE A COUPLE OF MASKS IN YOUR CHILD'S BACKPACK IN CASE THEY ARE NEEDED.

Adult visits to our classrooms will be extremely limited. To minimize exposures, masks will still be **required for all adult visitors** who enter our school building.

Health Screening: Parents are expected to screen their child for illness every day before arrival, however, daily temperature checks are no longer required.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL UNLESS THEY ARE 100% WELL!

COVID Excludable Symptoms include 2 of the following: fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose. COVID excludable symptoms are 1 of the following: new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder or new taste disorder.

Children with a chronic illness will be excluded only if they have new symptoms or have symptoms worse than baseline.

Positive Test Result: If someone at CCNS tests positive, they must stay home for at least **5** days from either symptom onset or (if asymptomatic) from a positive test result AND when they are fever free without fever reducing medication for at least 24 hours. **The day of positive test/or symptom onset is considered day ZERO.**

- If they have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving after **5** days and are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours, they can leave their home and should;
 - o Wear a mask when around others at home and in public (indoors and outdoors) for an additional **5** days.
 - o For these additional 5 days, centers should have a plan to ensure adequate distance during those activities (i.e., eating) when mask wearing is not possible.

- Children and staff who are unable or unwilling to consistently wear a mask when around others (including all children under 2 years of age) should continue to isolate at home for a full **10** days.

If someone at CCNS has COVID compatible symptoms and gets an alternative diagnosis (strep, flu, pre-existing condition), they may return to CCNS based on the alternative diagnosis criteria. Please check your parent handbook or call CCNS for exact exclusion criteria.

Close Contacts:

Exposed close contacts who have no COVID-19 symptoms in the following groups do not need to be excluded from childcare:

- Up to date with vaccinations.
- Had COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a viral test).

Children and staff who come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 should be **excluded from childcare and quarantine** if they have not had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days and are in one of the following groups:

- Infants and young children who are not eligible for vaccination based on age.
- Staff and older children who are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines (have not received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible).

Asymptomatic exposed close contacts who meet criteria for exclusion should:

- Stay home and away from other people for at least **5** days (day 0 through day 5) after the last close contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of the exposure is considered day 0.
- Wear a mask when around others at home and in public (indoors and outdoors) for an additional **5** days.
 - o For these additional 5 days, centers should have a plan to ensure adequate distance during those activities (e.g., eating) when mask wearing is not possible.
- Children and staff who are unable to consistently wear a mask when around others (including all children under 2 years of age) due to age or developmental disabilities should:
 - o Continue to quarantine for a full 10 days OR
 - o May return to childcare on day 8 with a negative test result collected at day 5-7 if they remain asymptomatic.
- Get tested 5 days or more after the last close contact, regardless of vaccination status or whether they have symptoms.
 - o If positive, follow isolation recommendations.

Regardless of whether they meet criteria for exclusion, all exposed close contacts should:

- Wear a well-fitting mask around others for **10** days from the date of their last close contact with someone with COVID-19 (the date of last close contact is considered day 0).
- Get tested at least **5** days after having close contact with someone with COVID-19 unless they had COVID-19 (positive viral test) in the last 90 days and subsequently recovered.
- Monitor for fever (100.4°F or greater), cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID-19 symptoms for 10 days after their last exposure. If someone at CCNS is a close contact* and has no symptoms and is not fully vaccinated they will be excluded from CCNS and required to: 1. Test immediately. 2. If negative, stay home and test again on days **5 – 7** for a return on day **8**. **The day of exposure is considered day ZERO**. If you choose not to test, then your child can return on day **11** if they have no symptoms.

*A close contact is anyone who spends **15** minutes or more less than six feet away from someone who has tested positive.

Household Contacts: Household contacts who can't isolate away from a household member with COVID-19 should start their quarantine period on the day after the household member would have completed their 10-day isolation period, UNLESS the household member is able to consistently wear a well fitted mask in the household through day 10, in which case the quarantine period would start on the day after the household member completes their 5-day isolation period.

Close contacts who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine, but are expected to test on day **5-7**.

Close contacts who have had COVID within the past **90** days do not need to quarantine or test, but should monitor for symptoms for **14** days.

If someone in a household has COVID symptoms, the child should stay home until that person gets a negative COVID result or receives an alternative diagnosis.

Testing: Home based tests are now acceptable and can be used to determine whether someone can return to CCNS. A PCR or rapid antigen test are also acceptable and encouraged.

Because we have to continue to pay staff and other expenses, CCNS does not offer credits if your child has to be excluded because of COVID.

Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation: We continue to clean, sanitize and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and shared objects between use. We also continue to use our portable UV cart at the end of each day to help remove germs from every classroom upstairs. HEPA air filters will run in each classroom on the lower level throughout the school day.

Best Line of Defense: Our best line of defense is using care and caution, always! Parents should watch their child closely for signs of illness every day before school and keep their child home if they are not 100% well.

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WE THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

COVID-19 Exclusion Table

Individuals who	Individuals who are unable to mask	Individuals ≥ 2 years old AND are able to mask
<p>Have symptoms of COVID-19 AND have tested positive (by PCR, rapid molecular or antigen testing) OR have not been tested AND have not received an alternate diagnosis by HCP</p>	<p>Stay home and away from others: At least 10 full days after symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours (one full day without the use of medicine that reduces fever) AND symptoms have improved (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)</p>	<p>Stay home and away from others: At least 5 full days after symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours (one full day without the use of medicine that reduces fever) AND symptoms have improved (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)</p>
<p>Have NO symptoms of COVID-19 AND have tested positive</p>	<p>Stay home and away from others: At least 10 full days after the collection date of the positive COVID-19 test AND have no symptoms</p>	<p>Stay home and away from others: At least 5 full days after the collection date of the positive COVID-19 test AND have no symptoms</p>
<p>Have symptoms of COVID-19 AND no known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 5 days AND have an alternate HCP diagnosis OR have tested negative</p>	<p>Follow NJDOH School Exclusion List</p>	
<p>Are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 AND Have no symptoms</p>	<p>Unvaccinated OR fully vaccinated but haven't received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including booster dose(s) when eligible</p>	<p>Fully vaccinated AND received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including booster dose(s) when eligible (up to date) OR Persons who tested positive for COVID-19 in past 90 days</p>
	<p>Exclude and get tested after 5 days from date of last contact AND continue to mask when around others (indoors and outdoors) for 10 days</p>	<p>Stay in childcare, get tested 5 days from date of last contact (<i>except if tested positive in past 90 days</i>) AND mask when around others (indoors and outdoors) for 10 days</p>