



COVID GUIDELINES

-A supplement to the Ellis Family Handbook-

Updated September 2024

This document may also be accessed on the Ellis website – www.EllisEarlyLearning.org



COVID POSITIVE PROTOCOL FOR ALL CHILDREN

- If a child tests positive for COVID, they must remain home while there are active symptoms (see end of document for symptom list).
 - Once active symptoms have subsided, the child may return to Ellis after testing negative on two rapid tests (given at least 12 hours apart). The second test should occur the morning of the child's return to Ellis.
 - Alternatively, children may return to Ellis on Day 11 after either the first symptoms or first positive test, if testing continues to show positive but there are no longer symptoms.
- You must report the positive test to Ellis via email to Lauren and/or Claire (LaurenCook@ellisearlylearning.org or Cmcnally@ellisearlylearning.org)
- Masks and Tests: Ellis has a large stock of masks for both children and adults. Do not hesitate to ask if you need any. Ellis has a small stock of rapid tests—if you need them, please ask, but know that we don't have an unlimited supply.

COVID EXPOSURE IN THE HOME PROTOCOL – ONGOING EXPOSURE

- If a family member inside the home tests positive and cannot truly isolate, we highly recommend that they wear a mask as much as possible when around any other family members. As above, we have a large supply of masks, and can provide as many as needed.
- If there is a positive test in your household, please report the positive case to Lauren and/or Claire
- Exposed children may continue to attend Ellis as long as they have no symptoms. We highly recommend giving the child a rapid test each morning before attending Ellis at least 6 days after their last contact with the exposed family member. As above, we can provide some rapid tests, but our supply is limited.
- If a child shows symptoms, please give them a rapid test. The child must remain at home as long as symptoms persist. If the child never tests positive, but symptoms subside, they may return to Ellis. If the child tests positive, please see the COVID POSITIVE PROTOCOL above.

COVID EXPOSURE OUTSIDE THE HOME PROTOCOL-ONE TIME EXPOSURE

- Exposed children without symptoms should be given a test on Day 6 after exposure. They may continue to attend Ellis during this time.
- Exposed children with COVID symptoms should stay home until symptoms subside.
- As above, if a child shows any symptoms, give them a rapid test. The child must remain at home as long as symptoms persist. If the child never tests positive, but symptoms subside, they may return to Ellis. If the child tests positive, please see the COVID POSITIVE PROTOCOL above.



MASKING

For children younger than 3 years, masks are optional.

For children 3 years old and up in preschool classrooms, masks are optional, with the exception of the following circumstance in which masks may be required:

- In the event of a widespread outbreak at Ellis or in Boston/Massachusetts, Ellis may require all staff and children over the age of 3 to wear masks.

COVID Testing and Symptomatic Children

- Ellis accepts results from PCR, molecular, and rapid tests.
- The bolded and underlined COVID-19 symptoms below (when they occur alone) will require immediate exclusion from care. The non-bolded symptoms will be managed on a case-by-case basis.
 - **Fever (100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher,) child, or shaking chills**
 - **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
 - **New loss of taste or smell**
 - **Muscle aches or body aches**
 - **Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea**
 - Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough. For persistent coughs, Ellis may request a doctor's note to confirm it is not to RSV or croup)
 - Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Headache when in combination with other symptoms
 - Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms

Regardless of COVID, children may not attend Ellis with a fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, or with persistent gastrointestinal issues (nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea). To return to Ellis following these symptoms, your child must be symptom-free without the aid of medications for at least 24 hours.