

FAQs and Guidance for ECS Child Care



The Early Childhood School has set their own policies and procedures for the school, students/children, teachers, and office staff. ECS does follow the recommendations to determine the preventative strategies needed to protect children who are not vaccinated. All guidance has been taken from the Maryland State Department of Health, Office of Child Care, CDC and our team of medical professionals at B'nai Shalom of Olney.

Confirmed Close Contacts of Persons with Covid-19

Children and unvaccinated adult(s) who had close contact with someone suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should quarantine for at least 14 days after their last exposure to that person. Close contact is defined as within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

People who are fully vaccinated and do not have COVID-19 symptoms after an exposure to someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get PCR tested.

People who are fully vaccinated and do have COVID-19 symptoms after an exposure to someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 must quarantine and get PCR tested 3-5 days after known exposure.

A. Masks and Face Coverings

Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Students below age 2 (24 months) are not required to wear a mask but will be strongly suggested.

- Outdoor Activities and Play: Effective August 7th, 2021, Montgomery County has reinstated indoor mask mandate for all persons regardless of their vaccination status. CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor setting or during all activities that involve sustained close contact with other people.
- Wearing masks may be difficult for young children with certain disabilities (for example, visual or hearing impairments) or for those with sensory, cognitive, speech or behavioral issues. For children with certain disabilities that can inhibit their ability to keep a mask on, our staff will prioritize the child to keep masks on, especially in environments where socially distancing is not unchallenging.
- As recommended by the CDC face coverings/masks should not be worn by children under the age of 2 years (24 months)

B. When Someone is Sick

Parent(s) and/or guardian(s) are asked to notify the school if they (parent or caregiver) or the child was exposed to someone with COVID-19 regardless of their vaccination status.

- Children who are sick with any COVID-19 symptoms should not attend school and should refer to their healthcare provider for evaluation and testing. Please refer to the MSDE Decision Aid Chart for further guidance.
- Students should stay at home if they have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19 and have not completed quarantine, if they are waiting for a COVID-19 test result, or if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and not completed isolation.

C. Ventilation

All classrooms in the ECS have air purifiers as well as windows that open for ventilation. For the classrooms that do not have windows that open to the outside we will have both classroom doors open to the hallway as well as air purifiers per required square footage.

Exclusion, Isolation, Quarantine, and Return to School and Child Care

If a child develops symptoms of COVID-19 during school hours, then:

- Safely isolate the person in the designated isolation area with appropriate supervision and completely away from the ECS hallway.
- If deemed safe, the staff will place a face covering/mask on the child if they are 2 years of age or above.
- The staff member and the ECS Director will wear the appropriate PPE and conduct a brief health assessment of the student's condition based on current visible symptoms. The office will keep constant communication with the child's parent/caregiver.
- The parent/caregiver is required to pick up the child as soon as possible.
- The ECS will follow CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting the facility that has been contaminated.
- The ECS will follow the most current edition of the MSDE Child Care Decision Aid Chart with the consideration of the Maryland Health Department's guidance.
- ECS will follow the instructions from the Maryland Health Department for all matters regarding exclusion, isolation, quarantine, and return to school or childcare for persons with confirmed or probable COVID-19 and close contacts.

D. Recess and PE

In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors (e.g., participating in outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities). CDC recommends people who are not fully vaccinated to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close

contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised. Universal masking is recommended during indoor physical education or recess. For more information on CDC's mask guidance, please visit their site here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

NEW Sibling Exclusion for Illness or Symptoms

We love having so many sibling duos in our schools! While this does enhance our sense of community and joy, it does create risk of spreading illness between our age cohorts. If one of your children is excluded from school due to illness or symptoms, their sibling is also excluded until the ill/symptomatic child is clear to return by negative PCR test or Doctors note. Thank you for protecting the health of our entire school community by following this important policy.

Travel Policy (NEW Effective August 30, 2021 & Subject to change)

Domestic travel:

- After an unvaccinated child travel domestically, except for Maryland, DC, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia:
 - **Get tested with a PCR test 3-5 days after travel.**

International travel:

- Unvaccinated children must stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel AND get tested with a PCR test between days 3-5 after travel and continue to quarantine for a total of 7 days.

Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms and Close Contacts in Child Care, Schools, and Youth Camps

For the purposes of this decision aid, **COVID-19 symptoms** are any ONE of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or new loss of taste or smell. For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

Exclude all persons (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19 symptoms and recommend evaluation by a health care provider and testing for COVID-19 ¹	Recommendations for the person with symptoms who is NOT FULLY VACCINATED Individuals are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after receiving either 1) both doses of a 2-dose vaccine series or 2) a single dose vaccine.	Recommendations for close contacts of the person with symptoms
Person has symptoms and positive test for COVID-19 or clinical diagnosis of COVID-19	May return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance <i>except</i> those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.
Person has symptoms and negative test for COVID-19	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms and health care provider documents symptoms are due to a specific alternative diagnosis (ex. strep throat, otitis media, pre-existing condition such as asthma)	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms with no negative test for COVID-19 AND no specific alternative diagnosis	If no known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms. If known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	Household members ² should not attend or work in a child care, school, or youth camp until the person with symptoms is able to return <i>except</i> those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic. All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance <i>except</i> those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.

¹For persons with symptoms who were previously infected with COVID-19 and recovered, follow [CDC guidance](#).

²These persons should not be reported to the local health department as contacts. The child care, school, or youth camp should inform the household members of these recommendations.

Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms and Close Contacts in Child Care, Schools, and Youth Camps

For the purposes of this decision aid, **COVID-19 symptoms** are any ONE of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or new loss of taste or smell. For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

Exclude all persons (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19 symptoms and recommend evaluation by a health care provider and testing for COVID-19 if indicated ¹	Recommendations for the person with symptoms who is FULLY VACCINATED Individuals are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after receiving either 1) both doses of a 2-dose vaccine series or 2) a single dose vaccine.	Recommendations for close contacts of the person with symptoms
Person has symptoms and positive test for COVID-19 or clinical diagnosis of COVID-19	May return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance except those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.
Person has symptoms and negative test for COVID-19	May return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms and health care provider documents symptoms are due to a specific alternative diagnosis (ex. strep throat, otitis media, pre-existing condition such as asthma)	May return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms and no negative test for COVID-19 AND no specific alternative diagnosis	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. Person should have written health care provider assessment that COVID-19 testing is not indicated and risk of COVID-19 is low.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
	If known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance except those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.

¹For persons with symptoms who were previously infected with COVID-19 and recovered, follow [CDC guidance](#).

COVID Preparation Plan

Scenarios	Plan of action
If a child gets sick during school hours	Staff must bring child immediately to the isolated sick room and contact the office. Office will contact the Maryland Health Department (410-767-6500) for further instructions. The child must be picked up immediately by a family member or an authorized caregiver. The child may return only if they are symptom-free <u>without fever-reducing medication</u> for at least 24 hours starting from the child's departure from the school (no exceptions) <u>and</u> PCR test results are submitted to the office or with a doctor's note validating their return. Unless deemed otherwise by the Maryland Health Department, the class will continue to be in session.
If a child confirms positive for COVID-19	The class must shut down for at least 10 days and can only reopen the class based on the Maryland Health Department's guidance. Parents will be informed and all students in the class must be picked up immediately. Online Zoom content will be offered for the class during the duration.
If a child is traveling out of the country and returns to school	Follow current CDC guideline for travel. The child must have proof of PCR negative test before returning to school.
If a parent is symptomatic with COVID-like symptoms	The child cannot attend childcare if anyone in the household has symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 or has a confirmed positive test result. The child should be quarantined based on the Health Department recommendations. Office staff will contact Maryland Health Department (410-767-6500) for further guidance.
If someone in the same household gets sick and shows signs of COVID-19 illness	The child cannot come to school and the family must inform the office. The family member must provide documentation that the person has a different illness (i.e., common cold <i>and</i> TBD). The class does not need to close immediately unless the person confirms a positive case of COVID-19. The child can return if the person does not have COVID-19.

COVID Preparation Plan (PARENT Payment Version)

Scenarios	Refund	Plan of Action
If ECS closes a classroom for 2-14 days	NO	Classroom teachers will send out email announcements and will coordinate zoom content during school day hours until the class is reopened by Maryland Health Department guidelines. Once the office receives valid confirmation that the suspected child is deemed safe to return (i.e., doctor's note) and the MD Health Dept. deems the class safe to return, the class may resume.
If ECS closes a classroom for more than 14 days but less than 4 weeks	NO	Classroom teachers will send out email announcements and will coordinate zoom content during school day until the class is reopened by Maryland Health Department guidelines. Afternoon zoom content may be added and communicated with the class families. Once the office receives valid confirmation that the suspected child with an illness is safe to return (i.e., doctor's note) and the MD Health Dept. deems safe to return, the class may resume.
If ECS closes a classroom for more than 4 weeks	YES	Zoom learning will discontinue. PreK parents will receive a survey if they would like to continue the zoom content from the classroom teachers. If there are at least 50% of parents choosing to continue the zoom content, then the classroom teachers will provide the same online zoom content to those selected families until the class has returned. If the parent chooses "no", then the parents will receive prorated refunds after the 4-week mark. If there are not enough parents that would like to continue the zoom content, the parents will automatically receive prorated refunds after the 4-week mark. The office will announce when the MD Health Dept. deems safe to reopen.
If ECS closes the entire school for 2-14 days	NO	Office will send out an email announcement to all families in the school and all classroom teachers will deliver online content during school day hours until the class is reopened by Maryland Health Department guidelines. If the suspected child and/or staff is deemed safe to return (i.e., doctor's note) and the MD Health Dept. deems safe to return, the school may reopen.
If ECS closes the entire school more than 2 weeks but less than 4 weeks	NO	Office will send out an email announcement to all families in the school and all classroom teachers will deliver online content during school day hours until the class is reopened by Maryland Health Department guidelines. Afternoon zoom content may be added and will be communicated by the class teachers. If the suspected child and/or staff is deemed safe to return (i.e., doctor's note) and the MD Health Dept. deems safe to return, the school may reopen.
If ECS closes the entire school for more than 4 weeks	YES	Zoom learning will discontinue. PreK parents will receive a survey if they would like to continue the zoom content from the classroom teachers. If there are at least 50% of the parents choosing to continue the zoom content, then the classroom teachers will provide the same online zoom content to those selected families until the class has returned. If the parent chooses "no", and we do not have 50% of participation then the parents will receive prorated refunds after the 4-week mark. If there are not enough parents that would like to continue the zoom content, the parents will automatically receive prorated refunds after the 4-week mark. The office will announce when the MD Health Dept. deems safe to reopen.
If ECS closes a class or the entire school for 2 weeks and needs to close a class or school again	YES or NO	A "reset clock" for any classes that close will start for 5 days. If a class or school closes for 2 weeks, returns without having to close again for 5 days consecutively, and then needs to close again for 2 additional weeks, then the clock will be reset, and no tuition refunds will be made. The classroom teachers will continue to support online zoom content for their class. If a class or school closes for 2 weeks, returns to school, and must close again within 5 days, the clock will not be reset, and the days will be counted. If the class has been closed for 4 weeks, prorated refunds will be made, and parents will receive the survey to continue the online content.

(Updated August 31, 2021)