



COVID-19 Health and Safety Policies

Last Updated: October 2021

Rogers-Pierce Children's Center follows the health and safety protocols issued by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Arlington Health Department. These policies are subject to change as the latest science and pandemic conditions evolve. Our goal at RPCC is to keep families, children, staff, and our greater community healthy and safe.

Illness Policy

If a child is a close contact (defined as less than 6 feet away for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period¹) to an individual with COVID-19 (laboratory-confirmed or clinical diagnosis), the child must be absent from school and quarantined at home for a period 14-days.

If a child has a confirmed case of COVID-19, in any of its forms, the child must be absent from school and quarantined at home for a period of 14-days.

If any member of the child's household is infected with COVID-19 or is a close contact of an individual with COVID-19, the entire family must be quarantined for a period of 14-days.

In all cases, the parents are required to immediately report any of the above listed information to the RPCC Director, who will share this information with the Arlington Board of Health and advise parents based on their recommendations.

Exceptions to the above policy: 7 days of strict quarantine and release on Day 8 if:

- A test (PCR or antigen; *home kits are not acceptable*) taken on Days 3-5 or later is negative; AND
- The individual has not experienced any symptoms up to that point; AND
- The individual conducts active monitoring through Day 14

If the child, or anyone in the child's household is awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, the child should remain home until the test results are received.

Should I send my child to school?

If your child has had any of the following symptoms, they cannot attend school until they have been ***symptom-free for 48 hours***:

¹ CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html>

- Fever of over 100 degrees
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea more than twice
- Severe cough
- Runny nose or congestion *must be in combination with other symptoms to be cause for exclusion*
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- New muscle aches, fatigue *must be in combination with other symptoms to be cause for exclusion*
- Headache *must be in combination with other symptoms to be cause for exclusion*
- Scabies or lice (return after thorough treatment)
- Inflammation of the eyes (conjunctivitis) (return after 1 dose of medication)
- Unexplained rash
- Abscess or draining sores

Children will be monitored for signs of illnesses or infection upon entrance to the center and sent home if necessary. If the child becomes ill during the day, parents will be contacted to pick up the child. If parents cannot be reached, emergency contacts will be called.

Child may be re-admitted to the center once **symptom-free for 48 hours** or after an evaluation by a physician or nurse practitioner with a note and determined to pose no serious health risk to him or herself or to other children (and a negative COVID test if symptoms indicate). Children must also be able to fully participate in the program in order to return.

Travel Policy

RPCC aligns itself with the Arlington Public School (APS) for its travel policy, as we do for snow days. Please find the current policy below and (Fall 2021) and you can find the latest information here: [Arlington Public Schools Travel Protocol](#).

We expect all families to adhere to current [state and international travel guidelines](#). Families and students who return from travel to high-risk areas are encouraged to take additional precautions, such as testing during and after travel or precautionary masking during and after travel.

We **strongly recommend** the following actions for families who are traveling out of state or out of the country:

- Vaccinate all eligible members of your household prior to travel.
- Wear masks during and after travel.
- Test for COVID-19 before returning to school.
- Test for COVID-19 again on day 5 following travel.
- Actively monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 following travel.
- Use mitigation strategies in public areas while traveling, such as masking, regardless of the vaccination status.

If you need information about COVID-19 testing, [please visit the Department of Health and Human Services Website](#).

Masking and Distancing

- Teachers must always wear masks indoors. Children over age 2 are required to wear masks indoors except when eating or napping, during which time physical distancing is enforced. Each classroom is staffed by 3 teachers assigned almost exclusively to that classroom.
- All parents and caregivers are required to wear a mask when entering the building, regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks are *not* required outdoors.
- RPCC employs physical distancing whenever possible. We have set up stations within each classroom where 2 to 3 children can play wearing masks. Children have assigned seating for meal times. Our goal is to spend as much time outdoors as possible.

Cleaning and Sanitation

- Children and staff must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer often, and wash all surfaces of their hands (e.g. front and back, wrists and between fingers) for at least 20 seconds.
- Intensified general cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting routines have been implemented. We use [Force of Nature™](#) – a natural, non-toxic cleaner that is on the EPA’s list as an approved disinfectant/sanitizer. We leave windows open in the classrooms whenever possible. We have also added [Alen BreatheSmart FLEX air purifiers](#), equipped with True HEPA Pure filters, to each classroom for added ventilation.

Weekly Pool Testing

RPCC is participating in free weekly COVID-19 pool testing. Participation is mandatory for staff and voluntary for children over the age of three. Testing will help to identify positive cases in people who don’t show any symptoms. Testing is an additional mitigation strategy that will allow us to have regular in-person learning as much as possible and in the safest way possible.

Families will be contacted directly with instructions in the event of a positive pool test.

If you have questions about the policies outlined in this document, please contact the Director: director@rogerspierce.org or 781-646-5280