

Irvine Nature Center and its Early Childhood Education programs follow all guidelines and policies regarding student and staff health provided by MSDE, the local health department and the CDC. A full description of these guidelines can be found at the following links:

- [CDC Operational Guidance for K-12 School and Early Care and Education Programs](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing: What You Need to Know](#) and [FDA Testing Recommendations](#)
- [What to Do if You Were Exposed](#) and [If You Are Sick](#)

**EXCLUSION POLICY**

**General Exclusion Guidelines:** If individuals have any of the following symptoms they **may not** attend. These symptoms are exclusionary regardless of COVID-19 status:

*vomiting, nausea, or diarrhea	*fever of 100 degrees or more
*unexplained rash w/out doctor clearance	*untreated head lice
*green/yellow runny nose paired w/ other symptoms	
*infectious pink eye (until cleared by a doctor and on antibiotics for 24 hrs)	

**Individuals must be fever/vomiting/ diarrhea free for 24 hours w/out the aid of medication.**

**If program participant/staff has possible COVID-19 symptoms:**

- **No known exposure:** Test before attending program. If negative follow CDC guidelines for testing with possible symptoms (including repeated testing and masking).
- **Known exposure:** Stay home and presume COVID. Follow CDC guidance to return (including repeated testing and masking).

If a program participant develops possible COVID-19 symptoms during class, they will be sent home until a guardian conducts a COVID test. We are happy to provide them! Staff will be isolated and given a test.

**POSSIBLE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS\***

- Fever of 100.4 deg. + OR chills
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New onset of severe headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat

*\*For chronic conditions (ex: asthma) symptoms should represent a change from baseline. A doctor's note must be supplied listing this as a previously diagnosed condition. For **Preschool students**, this must appear on the health intake form.*

**MASKING**

In line with the CDC guidance, staff and students will be expected to mask when indoors in the following instances:

- on days 6-11 after having COVID-19\*
- within the 10 days after exposure to COVID-19\*
- when awaiting a 2<sup>nd</sup> test per FDA guidance after symptoms but no exposure

\*Unless having met testing requirements to end masking early.

Students unable to mask due to medical reasons or developmental abilities will not be excluded from the program after an exposure. For questions about masking, please contact the Director of ECE directly. All individuals and families may continue to wear masks as they are comfortable. Staff will attempt to encourage children to wear masks if families request, but please understand this will not be fail proof and it will be extremely difficult for children to wear a mask if all the other children are not required to.

**COMMUNICATION**

Irvine will inform families/staff after a COVID-19 exposure. All families/staff must promptly inform the Director if a student/staff tests positive, is notified of an exposure to, develops any symptoms of COVID-19. **Failure to promptly inform the Director may result in the unintentional spread of disease and possible termination or dismissal from Irvine Programs.** Please contact the Director of ECE for any health-related questions or concerns.