

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. At this time the CDC has not yet issued specific guidance for schools and child care centers regarding respiratory viruses such as COVID-19, nor has MSDE. Until such guidance is issued, we will use the following:

- [Respiratory Viruses and Young Children](#)
- [Preventing Respiratory Viruses](#)
- [Preventing Spread of respiratory Viruses When You're Sick](#)
- [Masks and Respiratory Viruses Prevention](#)
- [Testing and Respiratory Viruses](#)

EXCLUSION POLICY

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

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

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

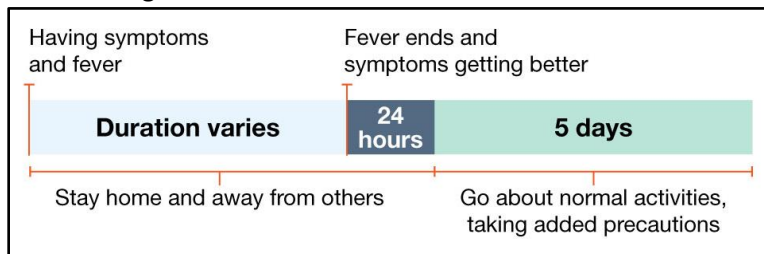
If an individual **has two or more** of the symptoms listed below not otherwise explained*, we *recommend* they stay home:

*runny nose/ congestion	*cough
*sore throat	*headache
*fatigue/lethargy	*muscle/body aches
*decrease in appetite	*wheezing
*new loss of sense of taste or smell	

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.*

If a program participant develops symptoms during class and is unable to participate fully, they will be sent home.

If an individual is ill as defined above, they must stay home until they are BOTH fever free and symptoms improve for 24 hrs without the aid of medication or if cleared by a physician. They can then return after those 24 hours and we *strongly recommend* additional precautions for the 5 days following including masking indoors. While masks during these 5 days and after an exposure are no longer required, we encourage their use to help limit the spread of disease. See image below from the CDC as a visual.



COMMUNICATION

All families/staff must promptly inform the Director if an individual is diagnosed with a respiratory virus. In turn, Irvine will inform families/staff after exposure to a confirmed respiratory virus. Failure to promptly inform the Director may result in the unintentional spread of disease. Please contact the Director of ECE for any health-related questions or concerns.