

TRS ECC COVID Policy

School Year 2021 - 2022

Rev. 2/8/2022



TRS Early Childhood Center is committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and creative environment. We will follow recommendations established by the Virginia State Department of Education (Licensing), Virginia Governor's Office, Fairfax County Health Department, CDC and TRS COVID Advisory Group. These protocols/policies will continue to evolve.

Mission: Limit and Minimize Exposure

What follows is a multi-faceted approach to providing care for young children during a pandemic crisis. We recognize that mitigating exposure to this virus is critical to the well-being of our children, staff, and families. Doing so will require multiple strategies to:

- Limit person to person contact
- Minimize contagion brought from home
- Manage possible contamination throughout the day

None of these strategies are 100% effective on their own and some are more effective than others, but together they increase protection and decrease viral load when exposure does occur.

Operating Procedures

School Day

Our goal is to create a warm, fun, and safe community for our children.

- Teachers and children (2 years and older) will wear masks unless eating. The TRS COVID Advisory Group recommends wearing high filtration masks. Teachers and ECC staff are required to use non-cloth masks. Non-cloth masks are also recommended for students.
- Daily Health Screening text
- Improved ventilation with upgraded filters in our building-wide HVAC system and air purifiers in classrooms
- Indoor/outdoor spaces are scheduled throughout the day
- Drop-off and Pick-up
 - Curbside drop-off and pick-up
 - Parents or caretakers are required to wear a mask while helping their child out of the car during drop-off and pick-up
 - Students walked to classrooms by teacher in their classroom group
 - All adults entering the building must be vaccinated
 - Parents allowed in the building for late drop-off, early pick-up, programs extending the day and for class activities

Outside Space Use

Outside play is critical for a child's emotional and physical wellbeing. Weather permitting, teachers will spend as much time outside as possible. Outdoor classrooms have been set up around our campus. Families are encouraged to apply bug spray and sunscreen before their children come to school each day.

Minimizing Contagion

Daily Health Screenings

Staff

Staff are required to have the COVID-19 vaccine and booster. Staff will stay home and coordinate a return to work with the office if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Staff will be sent home if symptoms occur during the school day.

Students

- Daily health screening conducted by parents prior to coming to school (must respond to screening questions, via daily text message), daily general health screening by the classroom teacher
 - Students will stay home and coordinate a return to school with the office if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Students will be sent home if symptoms occur during the school day
- If student has a temperature (without the use of OTC temperature reducing medications), is vomiting, or has diarrhea they will not be allowed to attend school and must be symptom free for 48 hours without the use of OTC temperature reducing medications (also, see COVID criteria below for additional guidelines)

Student Exclusion from Care Criteria

Students with any of the following symptoms should not attend school, if symptoms appear during the school day, student will be sent home:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss or taste or smell
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or Runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Pink Eye
- Lethargy/Extreme Fatigue
- Undiagnosed rash
- Known contagious condition
- “Just not acting like themselves”

How long to stay home will depend on symptoms, diagnosis, and direction from the child’s physician and/or the Fairfax County Department of Health. A return to school date will be coordinated by the school office.

Please see “COVID Quarantine/Isolation Policy” flow chart (attached) for COVID guidelines. We work directly with the Fairfax County Department of Health and our TRS COVID Advisory Group to coordinate policy and return to school dates.

Face Masks

- Staff and students (2 years old and older) will wear face masks except when eating
- The TRS COVID Advisory Group recommends using non-cloth high filtration masks, at this time, staff are required to use non-cloth masks and students are highly recommended to use non-cloth masks
- Parents or caretakers are required to wear a mask when they get out of the car to help their child out of the car during drop-off and pick-up or when on the school campus

We continue to learn about this virus, but we do know that viral load seems to impact severity of illness, and it does appear that masks help mitigate viral load.

[Wearing masks is one piece of the mitigation puzzle](#)

Lunches, Snacks and Water Bottles

All students will be served a school-provided snack. Children who stay until 2:00 pm bring lunches from home.

The following policies for snack/mealtimes will be in place:

- When possible, all eating will take place outside in the open air
- Physical distancing strategies, such as staggering where children sit at tables, will be in place during times students are eating
- Food will be served to students in individual portions, no family style sharing of food
- Reusable water bottles, when used in a classroom, will be sent home weekly for cleaning

Additional Safety Precautions

- Toys, equipment, and surfaces will be sanitized with hospital grade cleaners
- Staff and students will frequently and thoroughly wash hands: when soiled, after using the restroom, before and after diapering, before and after eating, after going outside and as needed throughout the day
- Staff will wear gloves for diaper changing and when working with a sick or injured child
- Bathrooms will be cleaned throughout the day
- A health room has been set up for sick children waiting to be picked up by parents

What about traveling?

As we work as a community to mitigate the spread of the virus, we ask all families to please monitor government advisories regarding regional and national pandemic hotspots *before* planning travel.

Travel Outside of the DMV (Domestic or International)

Prior to returning to school, students who travel outside of DC, Maryland or Virginia will need to:

- Submit a negative COVID test result (at-home rapid antigen, PCR or NAAT) to [Ali Ahmed](#) -- **test performed upon return to Virginia. Please do rapid antigen tests the morning returning to school.**
 - **If test is positive**, reach out to [Denise Lloyd](#) to coordinate a return to school

As future studies of travel and COVID-19 transmission are conducted, we will continue to review and update our policies.

What will happen if we have a case of COVID-19 in the school?

We will notify the Fairfax County Health Department and the Virginia Department of Education of any COVID-19 cases.

- Notify the school as soon as possible if you have a case of COVID-19 in your household or a known exposure
- If a student or staff member have COVID-19, their class will need to quarantine
[See COVID Quarantine/Isolation Policy flow chart](#)
- If a member of a student or staff's household has been exposed to COVID-19 outside of school, no action will be taken
- Please follow CDC, Virginia State and Fairfax County Health Department mask guidelines away from school to help keep everyone safe!