



EdenAcres Nature Immersion Programs COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy March 2022

Introduction & Background

This policy was created out of response to the ongoing and continuously evolving COVID-19 pandemic and is based on state and federal regulations, mandates, and recommendations. The policy was developed after hearing from the community that we serve in a public meeting, from our teachers, and community partners. Additionally, we reviewed the most up to date recommendations from the Oregon Health Authority and the Centers for Disease Control to help inform our decision making.

The Oregon Health Authority lifted all indoor masking requirements for the state of Oregon, including for schools, on March 11, 2022. Outdoor masking requirements have been lifted since November 2021. According to the CDC, when outdoors, in general, people do not need to wear masks. Given evidence of limited transmission of COVID-19 outdoors, [12](#), [13](#), [14](#), [15](#) [16](#) [17](#) the CDC has updated their guidance for outdoor mask use among people who are not fully vaccinated. The CDC suggests that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated. The CDC also recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk.

We honor and value the diversity of the people that we serve and in our community and we hope to meet the needs of this diverse group while also ensuring the health and safety for all. **EdenAcres reserves the right to change this Nature Immersion Programs COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy as needed.**

Policy

Our emphasis will be on implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors, and other members of their households while supporting in-person learning. These strategies include:

- Hand washing often and well.
- Sanitizing surfaces and shared items (scissors, pencils, etc.) regularly and frequently.
- Designing mealtimes to be physically distanced.
- Planning activities, lessons, games, and projects that allow for physical distancing.
- Staying home when sick.

Masking: EdenAcres Nature Immersion programs are entirely outdoors, therefore masks and other face coverings are optional for students, teachers, staff, and visitors. Those who wish to wear a mask are fully encouraged to do so. Disposable masks will be provided for those who wish to wear them.

EdenAcres encourages students, teachers, staff, and visitors who might need extra precautions to wear a mask consistently and correctly and maintain greater physical distance from others when needing a mask break.

Maintaining Physical Distance: [Physical distancing](#) provides protection for students, teachers, staff, and visitors by reducing risk of exposure and limiting the number of close contacts.

- To help prevent the spread of germs during meal times, students, teachers, and staff will be physically distanced by at least 3 feet while eating.
- Physical markers, such as stools and color markers, will be used to help maintain physical distancing during meal times.
- Activities, lessons, projects, and games will be planned to allow for physical distancing between students, teachers, and staff.

When to keep your child(ren) home from school: If you or anyone in your household has any COLD or FLU like symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, fever, chill or headache please stay home and give us as much notice as possible that you will miss school.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19:

- *Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.*

- Stay home for 5 days
- If they have no symptoms or their symptoms are resolving after 5 days they can come to school.
- Please provide your child with a tight-fitting mask and have them wear it when physical distancing isn't possible and at pickup and dropoff times.

If you or someone in your household were exposed to someone with COVID-19:

- *If your child is boosted OR has two doses of Moderna or Pfizer within the last 6 months OR one dose of the J&J within the last 2 months.*
 - Self monitor for symptoms and test on day 5 if possible
 - Isolate and test if symptoms develop
 - If your child and no one in your household has symptoms, your child can come to school
 - Please provide your child with a tight-fitting mask and have them wear it when physical distancing isn't possible and at pickup and dropoff times.
- *If you do not meet the vaccination criteria above or are unvaccinated.*
 - Stay home for 5 days
 - Monitor for symptoms and test on day 5 if possible
 - Isolate and test if symptoms develop
 - Please provide your child with a tight-fitting mask and have them wear it when physical distancing isn't possible and at pickup and dropoff times.

If someone in your household has an active case of COVID-19:

- Please stay home for 5 days after your household member has tested positive to see if you develop symptoms before coming to school. This is due to the close nature of learning and playing together and we feel it is necessary to keep our staff as well as all your families healthy.
- Please follow the guidelines above in regards to vaccination status.

Best Practices

Best Practices for Handwashing and General Hygiene

1. Staff and children are required to wash hands for at least 20 seconds (hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol is supported when an asterisk* appears):
 - a. Before and after eating
 - b. Before and after administering medication
 - c. After using the restroom
 - d. After wiping a nose, coughing, or sneezing*
 - e. At the beginning and end of each activity block*
 - f. Upon entering the program*
 - g. If staff are moving between groups*
 - h. After cleaning (staff only)
 - i. After bagging, cleaning, and disinfecting touched items, materials from the day, and trash (staff only)
2. Hand sanitizer should not be used on children under the age of two years.
3. Application of hand sanitizer will be supervised by an adult.
4. Hand sanitizer will be stored out of reach of children when not in use.
5. All other individuals (parent, maintenance, etc.) coming into the program are required to frequently wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer.

Best Practices for Cleaning

A three step method will be used for cleaning practices:

1. WASH
 2. RINSE
 3. SANITIZE or DISINFECT
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1. Washing is first used to remove dirt and debris from surfaces using a detergent or soap and water prior to sanitizing or disinfecting.
 2. Sanitizing is used to reduce germs from surfaces but not totally get rid of them. Sanitizing solutions reduce the germs from surfaces to levels that are considered safe.
 3. Disinfecting is used to destroy or inactivate germs and prevent them from growing. Disinfecting solutions are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- a. We will use products approved by the EPA for use against SARS-CoV-2 for household disinfectant:
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/listn-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>. Diluted household bleach solutions may also be used for some surfaces. If using bleach, we will make a fresh bleach solution daily and label the bottle with contents and the date mixed.
- b. For children or adults with asthma, bleach products will be used sparingly or when children are not present. We will use wipes or apply product directly to a dampened towel, rather than using spray.
- c. Toys, touched/shared classroom items will be sanitized at the end of each activity block when used and then washed and sanitized at the end of each day.
- d. High touch surfaces, such as doorknobs, entry tables, countertops, handles, sinks and toilets, will be disinfected daily during or after freeplay times and at the end of the day.
- e. Restroom areas including but not limited to handwashing sinks, counters, toilets, toilet handles, floors, trash cans, and bathroom floors will be disinfected daily.

Best Practices for Personal Protective Equipment and Physical Distancing

1. Masks will be provided for students, teachers, staff, and visitors who wish to wear one.
 2. Teachers will design their daily rhythms to afford safe space between students, teachers, staff, and visitors.
 3. Physical distancing includes maintaining:
 - a. At least 3 feet between all students during mealtimes.
 - b. Optional physical distancing of at least 3 feet during activities, lessons, projects, and games.
 4. Teachers and staff will never discipline for the inability to wear a face covering.
 5. Teachers and staff will always ensure children younger than two years do not wear a face covering.
 6. If wearing a face covering, it should be washed daily or a new one worn daily. If a face shield is used, it should be wiped down with disinfectant at the end of the day after use. Disposable face coverings or face shields should be worn only once.
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Failure to comply with EdenAcres Nature Immersion Programs COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy will result in a warning to comply. After a warning, if failure to comply continues, then EdenAcres reserves the right to suspend or expel participants from program.

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