



EdenAcres Nature Immersion Programs COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy September 2021

Introduction & Background

This policy was created out of response to the ongoing and continuously evolving public health crisis that COVID-19 and the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant continues to present. 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 CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status. 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.

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 activities, lessons, games, and projects so that physical distancing can be maintained. When physical distancing cannot be maintained, as described below, students will wear masks and teachers will hand out disposable masks if needed.
- Further teacher training on designing the school day so that physical distancing is maintained.
- Staying home when sick.

Masking: EdenAcres' mask policy involves both times of wearing a mask and times of being mask-free. Students, teachers, staff, and visitors will wear or not wear masks according to the following guidelines:

- During activities that involve sustained close contact with others, students, teachers, staff, and visitors will be asked to wear a mask.
- During physically distanced outdoor activities when at least 3 feet of physical distancing can be maintained, students, teachers, staff, and visitors will be able to take masks off.

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.

EdenAcres fully supports students, teachers, staff, and visitors who choose to wear a mask and will gladly supply masks if needed.

Exceptions for the following categories of people will be made for the close proximity masking requirement:

- Children under the age of 2 years
- A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations

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. Masks are not required when physical distancing can be maintained outdoors.

- We have developed policies and will implement strategies to promote physical distancing among students, teachers, staff, and visitors. Our staff will use physical or visual guides where possible to reinforce physical distancing of at least 6 feet during snack and meal times and 3 feet or more during activity blocks, lessons, and circle times at the discretion of EdenAcres teachers. Physical distancing includes maintaining:
 - 3 - 6 feet between all students during as much of the day as possible
 - At least 6 feet while eating and drinking
 - At least 6 feet between students and staff
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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. Teachers will design their daily rhythms to afford safe space between students, teachers, staff, and visitors as much as possible.
 2. Masks will be provided for students, teachers, staff, and visitors when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
 3. Physical distancing includes maintaining:
 - a. At least 3 feet between all students during as much of the day as possible
 - b. At least 6 feet while eating and drinking
 - c. At least 6 feet between students and staff
 - d. At least 6 feet between staff
 4. If a child removes a face covering, or demonstrates a need to remove the face covering during an activity when physical distancing cannot be maintained, staff will:
 - a. Supervise the child to maintain physical distancing while the face covering is removed;
 - b. Show the child how to effectively wear a face covering;
 - c. Guide the child to re-engage in safely wearing a face covering;
 - d. Never discipline for the inability to wear a face covering.
 - e. Always ensure children younger than two years do not wear a face covering.
 5. Face coverings 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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Students should be kept home for 10 days:

1. If they test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.
2. If they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms including new loss of taste or smell, fever, new cough, or shortness of breath, in the last 10 days.
 - a. New cough means out of the ordinary for this person – e.g., not typical asthma, allergies.
 - b. Fever means 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or more, without the use of fever-reducing medication.
 - c. Students should stay home for 10 days after onset of symptoms and 24 hours after both fever and cough resolve, without the use of a fever reducing medication.
 - i. If a student with symptoms of COVID-19 tests negative at any time during the 10-day period, they can return to the child care program 24 hours

after resolution of cough and fever without the use of fever-reducing medication.

3. If they are exposed to a current presumptive or positive COVID-19 case.
 4. If a student is feeling sick with any symptoms, please keep them home until resolution of symptoms.
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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.

EdenAcres reserves the right to change this Nature Immersion Programs COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy as needed.