

COVID 19 Health Policy

This policy is founded on Fiddlehead's Educational Philosophy and the key values of attention to the needs of the whole child, respect for all members of our community, and a collaborative approach to problem solving.

As knowledge, strategies, and recommendations about dealing with COVID 19 and schools evolve, this policy will evolve. The Executive Director, staff, parents, students, or School Board may initiate discussion of possible changes by contacting the Executive Director or School Board. This policy is designed as guidance for the Executive Director. The ED may consult with the Board Chair at any time if changes are needed to keep the safest possible environment for students and staff.

This policy assumes students are organized in a cohort/pod system (known as "pod" in this plan), in which a group of approximately 10 students stay with the same teacher during days of face to face instruction in the same classroom or space.

I. Required Health and Safety Standards: These safeguards are required for Fiddlehead employment and in-person school attendance. These steps are in place to ensure that everyone at Fiddlehead stays as safe as possible, and that we are able to be in school with minimal disruption.

- No one shall be admitted to Fiddlehead school grounds (students, staff, and all visitors included) without completing a symptom check within 12 hours of entry. Symptom checks may be completed in advance using the online Covid check in procedure (see attached form).
- No one shall be admitted to the Fiddlehead school building without being subject to a body temperature reading. Parents who choose some portion of in-person learning must consent to school personnel taking the child's body temperature reading.
- No one shall be admitted to the Fiddlehead school building unless the person has a body temperature reading below 100.4 F.
- Only required personnel and students will be permitted in the building; no others will be permitted to enter without specific permission of school administrators. ● All adults and children on Fiddlehead School premises (when within six feet of another person, indoors or outdoors) will be required to wear face coverings. For the purpose of this policy, neck gaiters and exhale port style face masks are not satisfactory face coverings.
- Students will be assigned to a classroom group (pod). The student's pod will attend school in-person on assigned days. Pods will be determined based on geography and family composition. During the school day and all school functions Fiddlehead school will maintain distance between pods.
- Cohorts will further be divided by age; pods for lower grades (PreK through second grade) will use the side of the school with the Performing Arts room. Pods for upper grades (3-7) will use the side of the school with the Discovery Center.

- Isolation rooms for symptomatic students will exist in each side of the building for upper and lower grades.
- Families will receive instruction about drop off and pick up of students. Drop off and pick up procedures should be followed to maintain safety and to streamline the morning and afternoon routine.
- Students will be instructed and supported about social distancing practices during the school day. Fiddlehead school will use behavior supports to model and encourage social distancing behaviors.

II. COVID Response Plan: In the event that a Fiddlehead staff or student is exposed to, shows symptoms of, or is diagnosed with COVID-19, the following steps will be taken. The Fiddlehead School response to instances of COVID connected to the Fiddlehead School will be guided by data, and in particular, the level of disease present in the communities that the Fiddlehead School serves, Maine Department of Education guidelines and Maine Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

- For the purposes of this response plan, we use the following definitions:
 - a. An instance of COVID means a positive COVID test, presumed positive COVID designation, and/or a diagnosis by a medical professional.
 - b. COVID symptoms means the symptoms listed on the CDC COVID Symptom checklist (attach).
 - c. To show evidence of a negative test for COVID 19 the student or staff member must show the actual results of the test or show a note from their health care provider that CDC criteria for being negative for COVID 19 have been met. The evidence must be shown to the person designated by the school
- All determinations of the proper response of any report of an instance of COVID connected to the Fiddlehead School shall be made by the Fiddlehead School Board of directors and/or its executive committee.
- Subject to public health data and guidance, which may change throughout the school year and shall be the determinative factor in decision making, the guidelines for response to COVID connected to the Fiddlehead School will be as follows:

Event	Response
<p><u>Outside Potential Contact:</u> A staff or student has had contact with someone outside of the school (family member, friend, coworker, etc) who exhibits symptoms.</p>	<p>The individual student or staff and their family will be asked to monitor for symptoms and stay home if they exhibit any symptoms.</p>
<p><u>Outside Actual Contact:</u> A staff or student has had contact with someone outside of the school (family member, friend, coworker, etc) who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is presumed positive by a doctor</p>	<p>The individual student or staff and their family will be asked to quarantine for 10 days, provided the individual student or staff tests negative no later than 72 hours before returning to school. Prior to returning to school student or staff are required to check in with the administration or school nurse. If circumstances warrant, the quarantine period may</p>

	<p>be extended to ensure health and safety of students and staff. Student or staff will shift to remote learning during period of quarantine.</p>
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<p><u>Student/Staff Confirmed Case of COVID:</u> A student or staff member who has been in the building has a presumed case confirmed by a physician or a student or staff member reports a positive COVID test to the school.</p>	<p>Students and staff in the pod of the person with COVID will shift to remote learning and will quarantine for 10 days from the last symptoms. Anyone in the school outside the pod who had contact with that person for more than 15 minutes will also quarantine for 10 days, provided the person in contact tests negative within 72 hours before returning to school, and shift to remote learning or work. Prior to returning to school, students and staff are required to check in with the administration or school nurse. If the circumstances warrant, the quarantine period may be extended to ensure health and safety of students and staff.</p> <p>The school will be closed for 24 hours for deep cleaning, assessment of contacts and further determination by the Board of Directors. Provided that indicators show the case is isolated to a particular pod and data supports it, the expectation is that school will continue after a 24 hour break to the extent data supports continuing school. In addition, the Board of Directors and Administration will consider the level of response and closure necessary for the health of the school.</p> <p>The school will inform and consult with the Maine CDC and inform the school community that a positive case was found at the school.</p>
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<p><u>More than one Confirmed Cases of COVID:</u> More than one student or staff member who has been in the building has a presumptive case confirmed by a physician or a student or staff member reports a positive COVID test to the school.</p>	<p>The school will follow the same steps indicated for a single case above. The initial 24 hour closure may be extended to multiple days of remote learning. In addition, the Board of Directors and Administration will consider the level of response and closure necessary for the health of the school.</p>
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<p><u>Person is Symptomatic Away From School:</u> A student or staff member reports COVID like symptoms but does not enter the building. The individual reports their symptoms to the Administration and stays home.</p>	<p>The student or staff will shift to remote learning during this time. The student or staff and family (including siblings) are not permitted back to school until they have spoken to the school Administration and school nurse. It is possible that a test for COVID 19 with negative results will be required.</p>
<p><u>Person is Symptomatic At School:</u> A student or staff at school displays symptoms on the checklist.</p>	<p>The student or staff will be moved to the isolation room closest to their pod. Family will be called to pick the student up promptly. The student or staff and family (including siblings) are not permitted back to school until they have spoken to the school Administration and school nurse. The student or staff will shift to remote learning during this time. It is possible that a test for COVID 19 with negative results will be required.</p>

	<p>A deep clean will be performed of the impacted area.</p>
<p><u>Heightened Community Transmission in Catchment Area:</u> An instance in which there are no confirmed or presumptive COVID cases at Fiddlehead but the cases in the community have increased substantially.</p>	<p>Fiddlehead Board of Directors will assess the status of COVID in our community biweekly, utilizing guidance from the Department of Education and Centers for Disease Control. A change in the community spread may indicate a move to remote learning.</p>
<p><u>Travel to areas with high incidence of COVID 19</u></p>	<p>If a family member of a student or staff member travels to an area of the country or state where this is a heightened incidence of COVID 19, the parents of that student or the staff member must talk with a member of the school administration before returning to school. The administrator will determine if the student or staff member may return to school or must quarantine for 10 days, or longer if the circumstances warrant.</p>

III. Return to School

- Criteria for returning to school after testing positive for COVID 19 are:
 - a. 10 days must have passed since the first sign of symptoms or confirmation of COVID 19

- b. At least 24 hours since the last fever
- c. All other symptoms have improved
- d. Doctor's note to be provided by the student's or staff member's health care provider
- e. It is possible that a test for COVID 19 with negative results will be required.

- The Executive Director will consult with the Board Executive Committee on an ongoing basis about Department of Education assessment levels as well as data and guidelines on status of disease within the community to determine whether a school-wide closure is advised.
- In the event of a school-wide closure of school for a particular instance of disease, school will reopen when the instances of disease have abated, generally after 10 days of quarantine of the affected pods(s) with no new cases.
- In the event of a school-wide closure of school for community conditions, the Fiddlehead Board of Directors will approve school will reopen when conditions in the community abate as measured by assessments by the Department of Education and Centers for Disease Control.

IV. Changing Conditions

The global pandemic presents difficult and evolving challenges. Fiddlehead School is committed to the health and safety of all of its staff and students. Changes to this policy may be required as circumstances of the pandemic evolve.

V. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the Fiddlehead School Board uses the definitions of terms put forth by the Maine CDC in the December 15, 2020 update of Standard Operating Procedures.

VI. Updates

This COVID 19 Health Policy is Presented to the Board of Directors on December 19, 2020 for Revisions in accordance with latest Maine CDC and Department of Education Guidelines regarding the length of quarantine.

VII. GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Close contact	Being within 6 feet of an infected person (with or without a face mask) for at least 15 minutes (in aggregate for certain situations like athletics), or having unprotected direct contact with secretions or excretions of a person with confirmed COVID-19 during the infectious period
Community transmission	Occurs when individuals acquire COVID-19 through contact with someone in their local community, rather than through travel to an affected location.
Confirmed case	A person who has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection (the virus that causes COVID-19)

Contact tracing	Process of identifying individuals who have had close contact (see definition above) with someone infected with COVID-19
Cohort	A consistent group of students and staff who interacts with each other but not with members of other groups on a regular basis. Groups should be as small as possible, with maximum numbers outlined in the different reopening scenarios. When in a cohort, each group must physically distance themselves from each other and from other cohorts.
COVID-19	Abbreviation for the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS CoV-2
Incubation period	The time between exposure to an infection and the appearance of first symptoms. The virus that causes COVID-19 has an incubation period of 2-14 days.
Infectious period (asymptomatic cases)	2 days prior to testing (the date of the swabbing was conducted) until CDC criteria to discontinue isolation are met
Infectious period (symptomatic cases)	2 days before symptom onset until CDC criteria to discontinue isolation are met
Isolation	Process of separating individuals who are infected with COVID-19 from others. Isolation lasts a minimum of 10 days from symptom onset if symptomatic. If a person infected with COVID-19 has no symptoms, isolation lasts a minimum of 10 days from the date of test specimen collection (test). For individuals with severely immunocompromising conditions, isolation is at least 20 days.
Protocol	Recommended actions to follow in the event of a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs
Probable case	Individual who has at least two of the following symptoms: fever (measured > 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or subjective), chills (rigors), body aches(myalgia), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, or congestion or runny nose OR at least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, new loss of smell or new loss of taste AND is epidemiologically linked to another case or has a positive antigen test.
Quarantine	Process of separating and restricting the movement of individuals who were in close contact with someone who tested positive or had symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 must stay home for a minimum of 14 days since the last day of contact with the person with COVID-19 and watch for symptoms of COVID-19. Persons in quarantine should self-monitor for symptoms and seek medical advice and test if recommended by Maine CDC or healthcare provider

Screening	Assessing individuals for symptoms of COVID-19 verbally or via self/parent attestation. Temperature checks may be performed by the school if desired.
Symptomatic individual	A person who is experiencing one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 as defined in CDC guidelines
Testing	Two types of tests are available for COVID-19: molecular and antibody tests. Molecular tests indicate if you have a current infection while antibody tests indicate a previous infection. Throughout this document, 'testing' refers to the molecular test to diagnose a person with COVID-19.

Outbreak: Three or more confirmed cases of COVID 19 at one time is considered an outbreak of the disease by the Maine CDC.