

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.

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. One form per family is acceptable.
- No one shall be admitted to the Fiddlehead school building without being subject to a body temperature reading. Parents who choose 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 premise will be required to wear face coverings, except when eating or drinking or on the playground. For the purpose of this policy, neck gaiters and exhale port style face masks are not satisfactory face coverings.
- Provided that pooled testing protocols are implemented, physical distancing will be removed except during meals where 6 feet of distancing still applies.
- Isolation room for symptomatic students is available.
- 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 physical distancing practices during the school day. Fiddlehead school will use behavior support to model and encourage physical 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-19 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. A case of COVID-19 means a positive antigen or molecular COVID-19 test
 - b. COVID symptoms means the symptoms listed on the CDC COVID Symptom checklist.
 - 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 a case 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 CLOSE contact with someone outside of the school (family member, friend, coworker, etc.) who exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19.</p>	<p>The individual student or staff will be asked to monitor for symptoms and stay home until the close contact receives a negative COVID-19 test or alternative diagnosis.</p>
<p><u>Outside Actual Contact:</u> A staff or student has had CLOSE contact with someone outside of the school (family member, friend, coworker, etc.) who has tested positive for COVID-19.</p>	<p>The individual student or staff - will be asked to quarantine for 10 days from exposure and ideally have a test ASAP and 5-7 days after exposure. Prior to returning to school, students or staff are required to check in with the administration or school nurse. If circumstances warrant, the quarantine period may be extended to ensure</p>

	health and safety of students and staff. Students or staff will remain absent during the period of quarantine. Fully vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals do not need to quarantine.
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<p><u>Student/Staff Confirmed Case of COVID:</u> A student or staff member who has been in the building reports a positive COVID-19 test to the school.</p>	<p>Students and staff meeting the CDC definition of close contact to the person with COVID-19 will shift to remote learning and will quarantine for 10 days from the last date of exposure to the person who tested positive.</p> <p>Testing is recommended as soon as possible and 5-7 days after exposure. Close contacts must remain in quarantine even with negative test results.</p> <p>Fully vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals do not need to quarantine.</p> <p>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>Depending on the circumstances, the school may be closed for 24 hours for targeted cleaning, assessment of contacts and further determination by the Board of Directors. Provided that indicators show the case is isolated and data supports it, the expectation is that school will continue after any 24-hour break. 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>

<p><u>More than one Confirmed Cases of COVID-19:</u></p> <p>More than one student or staff member who has been in the building reports a positive COVID test to the school.</p>	<p>The school will follow the same steps indicated for a single case above. Any initial 24-hour closure may be extended to multiple days. 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><u>Person is Symptomatic Away from School:</u></p> <p>A student or staff member reports COVID-19 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 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></p> <p>A student or staff at school displays symptoms on the checklist.</p>	<p>The student or staff will be moved to the isolation room. 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 remain absent for this time. It is possible that a test for COVID-19 with negative results will be required.</p>
<p><u>Positive Result in a Pool Test.</u></p>	<p>If pooled testing results are positive, pool members are tested individually using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test.</p> <p>Any individuals testing positive will stay home, the other students will remain in school and be retested 3-5 days after exposure.</p>
<p><u>Heightened Community Transmission in Catchment Area:</u></p> <p>An instance in which there are no confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 cases at Fiddlehead but the cases in the community have increased substantially.</p>	<p>Fiddlehead Board of Directors will assess the status of COVID-19 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>

Travel to areas with high incidence of COVID 19.

If a student or staff member travels to an area of the country, state or internationally where there is a heightened incidence of COVID 19, testing may be required prior to re-entry to the School.

· 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 date of confirmed positive test;
 - b. At least 24 hours since the last fever (without fever-reducing medications);
 - c. symptoms have improved.

- 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 grades or classrooms with no new cases. In making the decision to reopen, the Fiddlehead Board will use its best judgment based on current recommendations from the Maine CDC and DOE.

- In the event of a school-wide closure of school for community conditions, the Fiddlehead Board of Directors will approve school-reopening 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 its most recent updates.

VI. Updates

This COVID 19 Health Policy was presented to the Board of Directors August 26, 2021, for revision in accordance with the latest Maine CDC and Department of Education Guidelines regarding the length of quarantine.