

COVID 19 Health Policy

Approved by Fiddlehead School Board January 20, 2022

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.

1. **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.

a. School Entry:

- i. Anyone entering the building will be asked to complete a symptom check. Symptom checks may be completed in advance using the online Coved check in procedure. One form per family is acceptable unless symptoms vary between family members.
- ii. No one shall be admitted to the Fiddlehead school building without being subject to a body temperature reading below 100.4 F.
- iii. Visitors (outside of staff and students) require specific permission of school administrators to enter the building.
- iv. Families will be updated via email on pick up and drop off procedures that prioritize safety and efficiency and will be asked to follow this guidance.

b. Face Coverings and Distancing:

- i. Everyone on Fiddlehead School premises will be required to wear face coverings indoors, except when eating or drinking.
- ii. When masks are removed for eating, everyone must be spaced 6 feet apart.
- iii. Outdoor mask requirements will be established by Administration based on current COVID 19 cases in our community and are subject to change.

- iv. Neck gaiters and exhale port style face masks are not satisfactory face coverings.
- v. 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.

2. **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 school will be guided by data; 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:

Positive case of COVID-19: A positive antigen or molecular COVID-19 test.

COVID symptoms: The symptoms or combination of symptoms listed on the latest CDC COVID Symptom checklist. (Found [here](#))

Evidence of a negative test for COVID-19: The student or staff member has provided actual results of the test or produced a note from their health care provider that CDC criteria for being negative for COVID 19 have been met.

Close contact: Someone who was less than 6' away from an infected person (laboratory - confirmed or a clinical diagnosis), for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Up to date vaccination: While a person is fully vaccinated after one Johnson & Johnson shot or two Pfizer or Moderna doses, being *up to date* on vaccination means meeting one of the three criteria listed below. This list is subject to change and will be kept current:

- You have received a Booster immunization dose;
- You have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna series in the last 6 months; or
- You have completed the J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

All determinations of the proper response of any report of a case of COVID-19 connected to Fiddlehead School shall be made by the Fiddlehead School Board of Directors and/or its Executive Committee. The guidelines for response to COVID connected to the Fiddlehead School will be as follows:

| Event | Response |
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| <p><u>Outside Close Contact:</u></p> <p>A staff or student has had CLOSE contact with a positive Covid-19 case outside of the school (family member, friend, coworker, etc.).</p> | <p>Those with up to date vaccinations may continue to attend school.</p> <p>Those without updated vaccination who participate in pool testing need to quarantine for 5 days.</p> <p>Those without updated vaccination who do NOT participate in pool testing need to quarantine for 5 days.</p> <p>All close contacts should test 5 to 7 days after exposure.</p> |
| <p><u>Household Close Contact:</u></p> <p>A staff or student has CLOSE contact with someone who shares the same household (family member, roommate, etc.) who has tested positive for COVID-19.</p> | <p>Quarantine actions <i>may vary based on the situation.</i> Please reach out to the school nurse if someone inside your living quarters tests positive.</p> <p>If a staff or student is up to date on vaccination and is able to <i>fully isolate*</i> from the positive person, they may continue to come to school.</p> <p>If a staff or student is not up to date on Vaccinations and is <i>not able to fully isolate*</i> from the individual testing positive within the living quarters, they will need to quarantine for 12 days and test for 2 additional days when back at school.</p> <p>Test 5 - 7 days after exposures (a negative test does not change the quarantine).</p> <p><i>*Full isolation means not sharing bathroom/kitchen/living space.</i></p> |
| <p><u>Student/Staff Testing Positive for COVID:</u></p> <p>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 who test positive for COVID-19 will quarantine for eight (8) days from the positive test or from the first day of symptoms, whichever comes first. Testing is recommended as soon as possible with onset of symptoms.</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 isolation period may be extended to ensure health and safety of students and staff.</p> <p>Note: an individual confirmed having COVID does not need to quarantine if exposed at any time during the 90-day period following initial quarantine, regardless of vaccination status.</p> |

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| <p><u>Multiple 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.</p> <p>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>If a single classroom has 3 or more members identified with positive case of COVID-19 within an 8- day period, the school may choose to have the entire class quarantined and remote learning will be put in place for a period of up to eight days, longer if warranted. The school will ask individuals to test 5-7 days after exposure. Upon return to School, pooled testing will continue as scheduled, eliminating the COVID-19 positive individuals from pooled testing for 90 days.</p> |
| <p><u>Positive Result in a pooled test</u></p> | <p>If pooled testing results are positive, pooled members are tested individually at school using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test.</p> <p>Any individuals testing positive will stay home and isolate for eight days. Other students in pooled testing will remain in school and be retested five to seven days after exposure.</p> <p>Those individuals not in pooled testing will be removed immediately and will be quarantined for five days. They will be allowed back to school as long as they are symptom free AND show proof of a negative test.</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 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</u></p> | <p>If a student or staff member travels outside of New England they will be required to have proof of a negative test, regardless of vaccination status.</p> |

Communication regarding positive COVID-19 cases

The Executive Director or a delegate will send weekly community-wide communication regarding the cumulative number of weekly positive COVID cases. This email will NOT include specific classrooms. Communication regarding a positive case in a classroom will be sent directly to the classroom and any other impacted staff/students.

3. Return to School: Criteria for returning to school after testing positive for COVID 19 are as follows:

- a. Eight (8) 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); and
- 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 eight (8) 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.

4. **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.
5. **Updates:** This COVID 19 Health Policy was presented to the Board of Directors January 20, 2022 for revision in accordance with the latest Maine CDC and Department of Education Guidelines regarding the length of quarantine.