

Language Change for March 21, 2024

Fiddlehead School Board,

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 can be in school with minimal disruption.

a. **School Entry:**

- i. 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. Any person entering the nurse's office with symptoms of illness shall wear a mask.
- ii. Persons required to mask because of contact with unmasked positive individuals or testing shall mask indoors.
- iii. Outdoor mask requirements will be established by the Administration based on current COVID 19 cases in our community and are subject to change. Neck gaiters and exhale port style face masks are not satisfactory face coverings.

2. **Covid Response Plan:** If 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

Approved – still follows CDC guidelines. 3/21/24

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.

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 feet away from an infected unmasked 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 receiving updated boosters as recommended by CDC.

All determinations of the proper response to 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
<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>Regardless of vaccination status, students may continue to attend school. Masks shall be worn inside for 10 days unless there are 2 negative COVID tests 48 hours apart starting day 6.</p>

Household Close Contact:

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.

Quarantine actions *may* vary based on the situation. Please reach out to the school nurse if someone inside your living quarters tests positive.

If a staff or student is up to date on vaccination and can *fully isolate* from the positive person, they may continue to come to school, with masking for 10 days, unless there are 2 negative COVID tests 48 hours apart starting day 6.

Student/Staff Testing Positive for COVID:

A student or staff member who has been in the building reports a positive COVID-19 test to the school.

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate themselves from the day of the positive test or from the first day of symptoms, whichever comes first, until symptoms are resolving and fever-free without fever-reducing medications for 24 hours.

Masking for a total of 10 days from day 0 or an additional 5 days from fever-free status shall be required upon return to school, unless there are 2 negative COVID tests 48 hours apart starting day 6.

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 the health and safety of students and staff.

<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.</p>
---	---

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

- a. At least 24 hours since the last fever (without fever-reducing medications) and
- b. 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.

4. **Changing Conditions:** The global pandemic presents difficult and evolving challenges. Fiddlehead School is committed to the health and safety of all 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 March 21, 2024 for revision.