

Schlitz Audubon Nature Preschool

COVID-19 Response Plan

*We have worked hard to ensure that our program is meeting the best possible health and safety practices in response to COVID-19. Our Response Plan includes the COVID-19 licensing regulations set by the **Wisconsin Department of Children and Families**, as well as guidelines and recommendations established by the **North Shore Health Department** and the **Wisconsin Department of Health Services**.*

Updated August 26, 2022.

Due to the evolving nature of this virus, all policies are subject to change.

Goals

- Keep all students and staff physically safe
- Care for the social-emotional needs of students and staff
- Design flexibility into the school schedule should we need to adjust our program in response to COVID-19
- Modify our spaces and protocols as needed, without losing the core values of our program

Nature Preschool's Policy on Facemasks

- Facemasks are optional outdoors and in the public spaces of the Nature Center
- However, facemasks are still required in the indoor areas of the Nature Preschool when children are gathered in a group and in the indoor classrooms.
- We ask that anyone sharing the indoor classrooms with preschool children wear a mask, including, staff, volunteers, and parents.
- Facemasks, when worn indoors, must cover the nose and mouth
- To facilitate bathroom use in the classrooms and indoor play opportunities, each child should have a facemask on their person (tucked in a pocket or attached to a lanyard) in order to make indoor bathroom visits and shortcuts through the building possible
- Facemasks should be labeled with the child's name, to avoid mix-ups
- Facemasks are not required for children ages 2 and under in the building

Guidelines for Keeping Children Home

You should keep your child at home if:

- Your child is experiencing any symptoms of illness. This includes a thick, runny nose, persistent cough, shortness of breath, headache, lethargy, sore throat, diarrhea, or upset stomach

- Your child has a fever. Fever reducing medication may not be used when determining your child's health. Children must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Your child tests positive for COVID. See below for details.

If Your Child is a Close Contact

- Individuals that are close contacts do not need to quarantine if they are asymptomatic
- Individuals that are close contacts are not required to mask but are encouraged to do so out of courtesy

If a Child Tests Positive for COVID

Children who test positive for COVID must isolate at home for 5 full days, regardless of vaccination status

- The day symptoms first occurred is considered Day 0
- If no symptoms occurred, the day they took their COVID test is considered Day 0
- If, after 5 full days, no symptoms have developed, they may return to school on Day 6
- If they experience any symptoms of illness, in addition to their 5-day isolation period they must be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to preschool
- Whether they had symptoms or not, they must wear a facemask while at preschool for an additional 5 days after their isolation ends, including outside

Actions Taken if a Child Develops Symptoms of COVID-19 at Preschool

If a child develops symptoms of COVID-19, we will follow the same basic protocol we use with any contagious illness.

Our protocols regarding sickness include the following:

- Remove the child from their group and relocate them to an isolated area with a member of staff.
- Call the parent/guardian to pick the child up
- Report the event to the Preschool Director

If Someone in the Preschool Tests Positive for COVID

- If a teacher, volunteer, or child in our program tests positive for COVID, we will notify all families in that class. We will share information regarding the individual's classroom but will not identify the individual by name.
- We are required to notify the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families of any positive case in our school within 24 hours
- Parents must inform us if their child tests positive for COVID-19
- The North Shore Health department will contact us if anyone in our school tests positive based on the information they receive through their database

Nature as Our Classroom

Our best mitigation against illness is to remain outside as much as possible. We will follow an all-outdoor, Forest Kindergarten model and will only go indoors if outdoor conditions are hazardous (for example, when there is lightning, or the Real Feel temperature is in the single digits/below zero). School may be canceled when local outbreaks are high and outdoor temperatures are dangerously cold.

How Parents and Caregivers Can Support our Program

- **Keep your child home when sick**
- Be kind. We are all struggling with this pandemic in different ways
- Have your child use the bathroom before class starts
- Make sure they have everything they need to remain warm and waterproof
- Serve your child a healthy breakfast or lunch which includes protein prior to class
- Label everything with your child's name, including water bottles and facemasks
- Please read our school emails and sign up for our REMIND texts to stay informed

Tuition Refunds in case of School Closure

- In the case of a mandatory school closure by order of the North Shore Health Department, preschool tuition for missed school days will be refunded
- If school is closed due to inclement weather, we do not offer refunds. We include five days per school year of inclement weather closings
- In the case of multiple school day closures due to the combination of pandemic outbreak and weather, we will do our best to add a few additional days back into the school calendar.