

Nonotuck Community School COVID-19 Policy

Updated COVID POLICY: Approved July 2023, Effective August 2023

The following policy strives to create a clear set of expectations within our school community in regard to managing the health and safety of Nonotuck children, staff and families in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonotuck's COVID-19 policy is in substantial conformity with the Northampton Public School's COVID-19 policy with some differences tailored to fit the needs of the Nonotuck community.

There will be no daily health screening effective: immediately

1. Masking

Masks are optional except in particular circumstances surrounding exposure (both in school and out of school) or when a child or staff person returns to school before Day 10 after a confirmed positive COVID-19 case. See the following sections for details on when masking is required under these circumstances: Exposure to COVID-19 and Confirmed Positive for COVID-19.

When masking is required, masks should be made of at least two layers of tightly woven breathable fabric with a filter (or two layers of nonwoven polypropylene plus a melt-blown filter layer in the case of disposable masks) and should fit securely, i.e., sitting tightly against the cheeks, and staying up over the nose without gaps or sliding down. Masks that meet the requirements are available through Nonotuck or can be purchased from reputable suppliers. Please contact Shawna if you need assistance obtaining masks.

2. Symptoms and When To Test

*Please see our Parent Handbook FY23 for a comprehensive list of typical symptoms and illnesses that warrant exclusion from care. When in doubt, please contact the office at Nonotuck with any questions. Our regular sick policy dictates that an individual be free of fever, vomiting, and diarrhea for 24 hours without medication, regardless of the results of a COVID-19 test, before they can return to care.

Rapid tests are acceptable for all testing requirements. The CDC recommends that to effectively test for COVID, two rapid tests be performed 48 hours apart. ***This is considered best practice, though for some mild symptoms with no known exposure, a single negative result is sufficient.***

NEW Symptoms and NO KNOWN EXPOSURE:

If there is no known exposure to COVID-19, a child with one or multiple symptoms on this list may attend school the same day the negative rapid test is obtained, provided that the child is generally feeling well enough to participate and has no symptoms that normally warrant exclusion from care (e.g. fever, vomiting, or diarrhea).

- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Cough
- Nasal congestion (if not from another known cause such as allergies)
- Sore throat
- Body aches

If your child has any of the following COVID symptoms:

- Fever (101.0 degrees +) Chills
- Nausea, vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a child has a fever, vomiting or diarrhea, the child must stay home until the fever, vomiting or diarrhea has resolved for 24 hours, and they obtain **two negative rapid tests at least 24 - 48 hours apart. (Best practice = 48 hours) Please email a picture of the rapid test(s) to the Director and the classroom teachers**

NEW Symptoms AFTER KNOWN EXPOSURE:

If any individual at Nonotuck becomes symptomatic during the period 10 days from the date of exposure, they will need to stay home until negative results from two rapid tests 48 hours apart are obtained. **In this scenario with both exposure and symptom(s), no one may attend school the same day after only one rapid test.** Please note that Nonotuck's regular sick policy still applies.

3. Exposure to COVID-19

Nonotuck considers direct exposure to be:

- Being within 6 feet of a person infected with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes.
- Direct physical contact (hugging or kissing) with a person infected with COVID-19.
- A person infected with COVID-19 sneezed or coughed on you.
- Being in a classroom with an individual that tests positive for COVID-19 within two days for a total of 15 minutes or more.

If a child or staff is exposed to someone with COVID, they can attend school provided that they remain asymptomatic and the following requirements are followed:

- Inform Shawna if there is an out-of school exposure.
- Obtain a negative rapid test each morning for 6 days from the date of exposure (email picture to the Director and the classroom teachers)
- Wear a mask indoors if the individual is over 2 (except during meals and rest time) for 10

days from the date of exposure. The Under 2's are not expected to wear masks but can still attend school.

If there is an in-school exposure to COVID-19, Shawna will notify families and these same policies (rapid testing and masking) would apply. In cases of ongoing exposure, such as a family member in the home that cannot isolate, please talk to Shawna to confirm the timeframe for testing and masking applicable to the specific situation.

4. Confirmed Positive for COVID-19

Notify the Director of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases. Children and staff who test positive must stay home for at least 5 days after a positive test or signs of COVID symptoms. To count days for exclusion, Day 0 is the first day of symptoms OR the day the positive test was taken, whichever is earlier.

If a child or adult is FULLY asymptomatic, on Days 6-10, they can return to school as long as they can mask (over 2 years old). Under these conditions, the following is required:

- Please speak to Shawna before your child returns to school.
- Wear a mask indoors (except during meals and rest time) for Days 6-10.

The under 2s will not be able to return from isolation early because they cannot mask; they need to isolate from school for the full 10 days.

Alternate suggestion for under 2 years old: *If the child is FULLY asymptomatic and can show two negative rapid tests 48 hours apart, anytime within Days 6-10 they may return to school. *This is consistent w/CDC guidelines for removing mask before day 10

If a child or adult is still symptomatic, they cannot return to care unless they have a negative rapid test or after the full 10 Days of isolation, whichever is earlier (a negative COVID-19 test is not required after Day 10 to return to school). In all circumstances, for any individual to return prior to 10 Days of isolation, families and teachers should contact the Director before returning.

Mask Guidance Document

As indicated in Nonotuck's COVID-19 Policy, masks are optional except in particular circumstances surrounding exposure (both in school and out of school) or when a child or staff person returns to school after a confirmed positive COVID-19 case. This guidance document provides sources and additional useful information on masks.

Masks should be made of at least two layers of tightly woven breathable fabric **with a filter** (or two layers of nonwoven polypropylene plus a melt-blown filter layer in the case of disposable masks) and should fit securely, i.e., sitting tightly against the cheeks, and staying up over the nose without gaps or sliding down. The best masks for kids are the ones that fit their faces best.

Look for features such as adjustable ear loops and nose pieces to create the best fit possible. Please be sure to check masks for optimal fit before sending them in. ***Surgical masks and single layer cloth masks are not acceptable.***

The following sources have been verified and certain masks from these sources meet the required guidelines:

- [Happy Masks](#)
- [Halo masks](#)
- [Enro masks](#)
- [Bluna Facefit](#)
- [Vida](#)

Masks that are either KF95, KN95, N95 etc also meet the mask requirements and the following are reputable websites where legitimate (not counterfeit) masks can be purchased:

- <https://kollekteusa.com/>
- <https://behealthyusa.net/>
- <https://bonafidemasks.com/>
- <https://wellbefore.com>
- <https://www.projectn95.org>
- <https://lutema.com>
- <https://shop.demetech.us>

Nonotuck acknowledges that there is a significant financial investment required in order to meet the masking requirements above. We believe that the health and safety of our children, teachers and families is worth this investment, and as the hub of this community, Nonotuck recognizes its responsibility to make sure everyone has access to these items when required.

Masks that meet the requirements have been purchased and are available through Nonotuck. Please contact Shawna if you need assistance obtaining masks.