

## **PVP Covid Protocols Updated July 2022**

EEC has updated their Covid guidelines in May 2022. We are adopting the new guidelines with a few exceptions noted in **RED below**.

### **EEC Updated Guidelines May 25, 2022**

Effective May 25, 2022, children in child care, K-12, out-of-school time (OST) and recreational camp settings should follow the below protocols.<sup>1</sup> Staff in child care and school settings should adhere to protocols previously issued by **EEC** or **DESE**, depending on the setting.<sup>2</sup>

- A **rapid antigen test**, such as a self-test, is preferred to a PCR test in most situations for the purposes of exiting isolation or quarantine.
- To count days for quarantine and isolation, Day 0 is the date of exposure for close contacts, and for positive cases is the first day of symptoms OR the day the day positive test was taken, whichever is earlier.
- Masking is never required in these settings while the individual is eating, drinking, sleeping, or outside.
- These settings are not required to conduct contact tracing as a standard practice, but must continue to work with their Local Board of Health in the case of outbreaks.
- While masks are not required in these settings, any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, should be supported in that choice.
- **We have decided to make masks optional for children and staff as of July 5, 2022. Some exceptions to this are listed below in the isolation and quarantine protocols.**

Isolation and quarantine guidance and protocols

### **Guidance for Children in Child Care, K-12, OST, and Recreational Camp Settings:**

- Quarantine for asymptomatic exposed children, regardless of where the exposure occurred, is no longer required for these settings. **PVP is requiring children who have a household exposure, regardless of vaccine status, to stay home for 5 days and return if they have a negative test on day 6.** Children who are identified as close contacts may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic. Those who can mask should do so until Day 10. A test on Days 2 and 5 is recommended, but not required. **Pine Village is requiring a test on day 2 and 5.**
- Children who test positive must isolate for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever free for 24 hours, they may return to programming after Day 5, provided:
  - If the child is able to mask, they must do so through Day 10.
  - If the child is unable to mask, they must have a negative test on Day 5 or later in order to return to programming prior to day 11.
- Symptomatic children can remain in their school or program if they are tested immediately onsite, and that test is negative. Best practice would also include wearing a mask, if possible, until symptoms are fully resolved.
  - If the symptomatic child cannot be tested immediately, they should be sent home and allowed to return to their program or school if they test negative, or

they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their symptoms have resolved, or if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis. A negative test is strongly recommended for return if the latter two conditions are met.

**Note:** At this time, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved or authorized any at-home rapid antigen test for use in children under 2 years of age. However, at-home rapid antigen tests may be used off-label in children under 2 years of age for purposes of post-exposure, isolation, and symptomatic testing. It is recommended that parents or guardians deciding to test children under 2 years of age administer the at-home rapid antigen test themselves.

We have included these exceptions based on current cases and the way Covid appears to be spreading in our schools. Directors report that most cases are coming from household exposures even in vaccinated children.

As always, our goal is to keep everyone safe, limit the spread and keep classrooms open and staffed. Thank you for helping us in this effort.

The PVP Team