

## **COVID-19 Return to Preschool Policy for PVUMC Preschool Children for the 2021-2022 School Year (Attachment 1)**

At PVUMC Preschool, we prioritize keeping our community healthy and safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The outline below will guide the preschool in making decisions about when our preschool students can return to their classrooms after displaying COVID symptoms, testing positive for COVID, and/or coming into close contact with someone who later tests positive for COVID. The preschool may update this policy throughout the year as CDC and health department guidance evolves, and if segments of our school population become eligible for vaccination.

Please bear in mind that COVID symptoms may appear between 2 and 14 days after exposure to the virus. These symptoms include:

- Fever (greater than or equal to 100.4 F or 38 C)
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue\*

\*Per county health department guidance, children will not be sent home if fatigue is their only symptom.

The Maricopa County Health Department recommends taking the following steps to mitigate the spread of COVID. Thank you for partnering with us in observing their recommendations as we begin the new preschool year:

- Wear a face covering in public spaces

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

According to the Maricopa County Department of Health, a person is a close contact if he/she was within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 while infectious for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more during a 24 hour period or had physical contact with a person with COVID-19 while infectious, regardless of whether masks were worn.

**GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING WHEN A PRESCHOOL CHILD MAY RETURN TO PRESCHOOL:**

**I. If a child tests positive for COVID:**

- A. If the child is also experiencing COVID symptoms, the child may return to preschool after **10 days** since his/her COVID symptoms appeared, **and** after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, **and** once his/her other symptoms have improved.
- B. If the child is NOT also experiencing COVID symptoms, the child may return to preschool after **10 days** since his/her COVID test sample was collected.

**II. If a child is displaying COVID symptoms:**

- A. If the family decides to get the child tested:
  - If the results are **negative**, the child may return to preschool after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, **and** once his/her other symptoms have improved. The family must present the negative test before returning to the preschool.
  - If the results are **positive**, the child may return to preschool after **10 days** since his/her COVID symptoms appeared, **and** after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, **and** once his/her other symptoms have improved.

- B. If the family decides NOT to get the child tested, or test results are not yet available:
  - The child may return to preschool **10 days** after his/her COVID symptoms appeared, **and** after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, **and** once his/her other symptoms have improved.
    - If the child's test results later come back negative for COVID, the child may return to preschool after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, **and** once his/her other symptoms have improved.
  - If the child's doctor will provide a note attesting that the child has **another lab-confirmed** infectious illness causing the child's symptoms, the child may return to the preschool after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, **and** once his/her symptoms have improved.
  - If the child's symptoms are caused by a known **chronic non-infectious condition** (such as allergies or asthma), the child's doctor may provide a note confirming this condition and the child may return to preschool.
  
- C. If the child is also a **close contact** of someone who has tested positive for COVID:
  - The child may not return to preschool until **10 days** after his/her symptoms appeared (**regardless of any test result**), **and** the child has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, **and** once his/her other symptoms have improved.

III. **If a child is a close contact of a person who tests positive for COVID:**

- A. If the child does NOT display COVID symptoms:
  - a. If the family chooses to get the child tested:
    - i. If the child is tested at least **5 full days** after his/her last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID, **and** the test result is **negative**, the child may return to preschool after **7 days** since his/her last exposure to the person who tested positive for COVID. The family should monitor the child for 14 days since his/her last exposure to the person who tested positive for COVID. The family must present a negative COVID test in order to return to preschool.
    - ii. If the test result is **positive**, the child may return to preschool **10 days** after his/her COVID test sample was collected.
  - b. If the family chooses NOT to get the child tested, the child may return to preschool after **10 days** since his/her last exposure to the person who tested positive for COVID. The family should monitor the child for 14 days since his/her last exposure to the person who tested positive for COVID.
  
- B. If the child displays COVID symptoms, **regardless of any test result**, the child may not return to preschool for **10 days** since his/her COVID symptoms appeared, **and** until he/she has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, **and** his/her other symptoms have improved.