

## **COVID-19 Return to Preschool Policy for VACCINATED PVUMC Preschool Staff Members for the 2021-2022 School Year (Attachment 2)**

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 vaccinated staff members may 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.

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

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 VACCINATED STAFF MEMBER MAY RETURN TO PRESCHOOL:**

##### **I. If a vaccinated staff member tests positive for COVID:**

- A. If the staff member is also experiencing COVID symptoms, the staff member may return to the 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 staff member is NOT also experiencing COVID symptoms, the staff member may return to preschool after **10 days** since his/her COVID test sample was collected.

##### **II. If a vaccinated staff member is displaying COVID symptoms:**

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

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

- A. If the staff member does NOT display COVID symptoms:
- a. If the staff member chooses to get tested:
    - i. If the result is **negative**, the staff member may return to preschool immediately. The staff member should monitor himself/herself for COVID symptoms for 14 days since his/her last exposure to the person who tested positive for COVID.
    - ii. If the test result is **positive**, the staff member may return to preschool **10 days** after his/her COVID test sample was collected.
  - b. If the staff member chooses NOT to get tested, the staff member may return to preschool immediately. The staff member should monitor himself/herself for COVID symptoms for 14 days since his/her last exposure to the person who tested positive for COVID.

- B. If the staff member displays COVID symptoms:
- a. If the staff member chooses to get tested:
    - i. If the test result is **negative**, the staff member 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 staff member must present the negative COVID test upon returning to the preschool.
    - ii. If the test result is **positive**, the staff member may return to preschool. The staff member 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.
  - b. If the staff member chooses not to get tested, the staff member 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.