

2022-23 COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

Updated August 2022

During the 2022-23 school year, Natural Start Preschool will continue to follow the health and safety guidelines for early learning programs set forth by the Washington State Department of Health and the King County Departments of Health. For more information, please visit <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/schools-childcare.aspx>.

As of the start of the school year (September 2022), the following guidelines will be implemented while programming is in session. Preschool staff will monitor the Washington State and King County Department of Health websites regularly and will communicate any changes to parents and guardians as soon as possible.

Employee COVID-19 Vaccination

All Natural Start Preschool teachers and staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, in accordance with Governor's proclamation 21-14.3 requiring all employees in educational settings to be fully vaccinated or have a medical or religious exemption.

Exclusion of Individuals with Symptoms and/or Diagnosis of COVID-19

- Any NSP student, teacher, or staff member who has symptoms of COVID-19 is required to stay home and should get tested and/or see a health care provider and follow the return-to-school protocol outlined separately (see *2022-23 COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Protocols – September 2022* at www.naturalstartpreschool.com/forms).
- Any NSP student, teacher, or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 is required to isolate at home and follow the return-to-school protocol outlined separately (see *2022-23 COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Protocols – September 2022* at www.naturalstartpreschool.com/forms). This isolation guidance applies regardless of vaccination status.

Face Coverings

In accordance with current guidelines for preschools and early learning centers from the Washington State Department of Health and the King County Departments of Health, mask wearing as one of the COVID-19 mitigation measures is optional for Natural Start Preschool students, teachers, and staff members. This means that whether each student wears a mask in both indoor and outdoor settings will be an individual choice made by that student's family. We understand that some individuals may need to wear a mask because they or a member of their household is at high risk for severe COVID-19 disease. NSP teachers and staff will respect each family's choice and ensure that their preference is honored while we work together to ensure a safe learning environment for all.

While masks are no longer required universally in school settings, there will be situations when the use of well-fitting masks may be temporarily required for individuals by the Washington State Department of Health and/or King County Departments of Health. These situations include:

- For a student, teacher, or staff member on days 6-10 when they return to school/work from quarantine after having been exposed to COVID-19
- For a student, teacher, or staff member on days 6-10, with a negative COVID test by day 5, when they return to school/work from isolation after having tested positive for COVID-19
- Masks may also be required as a response to an outbreak or cluster of cases in a classroom or group or in a specific setting

Ventilation

- As a nature-based program, Natural Start Preschool students, teachers, and staff will continue to spend a significant portion of their daily class time outdoors, which the CDC regards as one of the most important COVID mitigation strategies for schools.
- All scheduled preschool family events will be held outdoors during the 2022-23 school year.
- Restroom breaks and classroom activities will take place inside the South Bellevue Community Center building, which is equipped with a state-of-the-art ventilation system utilizing the highest quality MERV 13 filters.
- Classroom windows can also be opened to bring in outside air and encourage air flow within the classrooms.

General Health and Safety Measures

Natural Start Preschool will also employ the following measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all our students, teachers, and staff:

- Daily health screenings questions must be filled out by parents/guardians at morning sign-in.
- Teachers and staff will monitor students during preschool hours for signs of illness and will contact parents/guardians for early pickup if symptoms develop.
- Regular handwashing and hand sanitizing routines are built into our daily schedule.
- Class sizes are in accordance with county and state guidelines.
- Daily preschool activities will be structured to encourage physical distancing.
- Physical distancing will be observed during snack time. As always, students will not be allowed to share food or drink.
- All preschool materials will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Preschool materials that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected will be removed from the curriculum, such as stuffed animals, pillows/cushions, soft or porous learning manipulatives, etc.
- All preschool classrooms and facilities will be cleaned and disinfected by preschool staff before and after each use. In addition, the South Bellevue Community Center employs a professional maintenance staff that cleans and disinfects the classrooms, restrooms, and all other community center facilities each night.