



## COVID-19 Mitigation Policy

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Lyn-CAG Head Start Program in consultation with the Health Services Advisory Committee will follow the current recommendations from the local Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The risk reduction strategies will be scaled up or down based on the impacts or risks of COVID-19 in the community.

In general, masks are not routinely recommended in these settings, indoors or outdoors, except when returning to school after isolation as specified below or when community transmission rates are high. Any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, may do so as an option. Masking is never recommended while the individual is eating, drinking or sleeping.

### General Preparedness

1. Ensure adequate supplies are on hand for: cleaning, disinfecting, hand hygiene, PPE and COVID-19 tests.
2. Educate staff and families on the importance of hand hygiene, staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes and staying up to date on vaccinations.
3. Develop a communication plan to notify families, staff, Child Care Licensing and the local health department of clusters of illness, exposures, site closures, etc.
4. Educate staff on the importance of following Caring for Our Children Appendix K: Routine Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Schedule
5. Prepare for staff absences.

To respond to illness, the Program will:

1. Require families and staff to notify the Program of confirmed COVID-19 cases.
2. Report clusters of COVID-19 illness to the local health department.
3. Conduct Daily Health Observations at the time of check-in.
4. Designate a space in each classroom away from play areas but still actively supervised where an ill child may wait until being picked up.
5. Send exposure notices home to families within 24 hours when there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 in that center.
6. Require staff and children to staff home if they have signs of illness: sore throat, fever, body aches, cough.
7. Staff and children who come to school with symptoms or develop symptoms while at school will be asked to wear a well-fitting mask while in the building.
8. Review the Routine Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Schedule from Caring for Our Children.
9. Communicate with staff and families any changes that may need to be made to our usual routine through: letters home, Class Dojo and posted information.

**Building Equity, One Child and One Family at a Time**



### **Isolation and Quarantine Guidance:**

**Symptomatic persons** (regardless of vaccination status) should begin isolation at home and undergo testing as recommended by their healthcare providers. The day symptoms began should be counted as day 0.

**Persons who test positive for COVID-19** (regardless of vaccination status) should isolate themselves at home for at least 5 days. If they have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to the program after day 5.

- The individual should mask through Day 10.
- If they are unable/unwilling to mask the person should isolate for 10 full days.

**Persons who have had recent confirmed or suspected exposure to an infected person** (regardless of vaccination status), quarantine is no longer recommended. These individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic.

The above policy will be scaled up or down based on:

- COVID-19 Community Levels
- If the school is experiencing a cluster of COVID-19 that has been difficult to control