

Dear EDSE Families,

We have updated our Temporary Illness Policy again due to the increase of "break-through" cases of COVID-19 or any of its variants in people who are fully vaccinated or have already had the illness.

It is imperative that you read, understand, and completely comply with EDSE's UPDATED Temporary Illness Policy until the restrictions placed on us by the State during this COVID-19 pandemic are lifted. At EDSE our first and most important concern is the health and safety of the children, their families, and our staff. With so many people depending on full compliance of the Temporary Illness Policy, especially those with impaired immune systems, once again we are requiring your acknowledgement by signing and returning this letter.

We implore everyone to obey State Regulations to keep Colorado safe and healthy. Because we cannot control what others may do away from EDSE, your child has an increased chance of exposure to COVID-19 or any of its variants. At EDSE, we continue to follow all daily cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting guidelines, handwashing, and social distancing to the best of our ability to further limit possible exposure of the virus. Face masks are required of staff who are not fully vaccinated. Though we do not require it, if you would like your child to wear a face mask, they can. However, they cannot be worn during naps or while eating and for those two years old and under. If your child cannot wear their mask without constantly touching it, they should not wear one. Masks must be washed in very hot water daily.

As part of the Temporary Illness Policy, you must first understand some definitions:

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

*congestion or runny nose, *new or worsening cough, *shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,
*fever (100.4°F or higher), *chills, *headache, *sore throat, *muscle or body aches,
*new loss of taste or smell, *fatigue (tiredness), *nausea or vomiting, *diarrhea.

In children too young to reliably report their symptoms, parents, caregivers and teachers should monitor for symptoms and other age-appropriate signs of disease, including *decreased appetite or activity. Symptoms of COVID-19 of the child care age group have not been well defined.

According to CDPHE symptoms of COVID-19, whether mild, worsening, or severe, requires isolation.

QUARANTINE VS ISOLATION:

Quarantine:

- Separate a person and restrict their movements if they were exposed to someone who has a confirmed, probable or presumed case of COVID-19 to see if they become sick.
- For people who are not sick but have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who is sick while they wait to see if they become ill or test positive themselves.
- People in quarantine should separate from other people and restrict their movements.
- Quarantine lasts 14 days unless the person starts having symptoms.
- If during the 14 days they develop symptoms or test positive, they must start isolation.

Isolation:

- Is for those who have tested positive for COVID-19 whether they have symptoms or not or for people who are ill with COVID-19 symptoms but have not yet been tested or choose not to be tested.
- People in isolation should be separated from other people, even in their own household.
- The Isolation Period is only over when:
 1. Those who were ill but to the best of their knowledge were not exposed, test negative for COVID-19.
 2. 24 hours have passed from the last time there was a fever without using a fever reducing medication **AND**
Other symptoms are gone **AND**
At least 10 days has passed since symptoms first appeared.

EDSE TEMPORARY ILLNESS POLICY REVISED:

EDSE's Temporary Illness Policy during the COVID-19 pandemic is strict because it appears that some people, especially children, present with only mild symptoms, if any at all. When asked if children or staff may attend if they only appear to have a common cold we were told "Children or staff should not be attending if they have any cold like symptoms that are not allergies."

Therefore, children or staff who have any illness symptoms even without a fever cannot attend until:

- Their symptoms go away **AND**
- They provide a negative COVID-19 PCR or Rapid Molecular (PCR) Test result in hard copy **OR**
- The ill person has gone through the isolation process:
 - 24 hours has passed from the last time there was a fever without using a fever reducing medication **AND**
 - All other symptoms are gone **AND**
 - At least 10 days has passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Antigen tests may not be used instead of a PCR or Rapid Molecular Test.

If children or staff have mild illness symptom(s) but you strongly believe the symptom(s) is because of seasonal allergies or any other reason such as a cold, other respiratory symptom, or even symptoms due to wildfire smoke, please have your Health Care Provider confirm the allergy symptom(s) or alternative diagnosis in writing and provide it to us. We still must receive a negative COVID-19 test result.

Test results may be delivered to us by hand, text, email, or fax. Our fax number is 1-303-379-1509.

If your Health Care Provider gives an alternative diagnosis or note about allergies and the symptoms continue for longer than 2 – 3 weeks, you will need to take your child back to their health care provider for another diagnosis and COVID-19 test.

Included in this Temporary Illness Policy:

You must inform us if:

- Anyone in your household has any illness symptoms that does not already have an alternative diagnosis. This is especially important now that there are increasing cases of COVID-19 variants of those who are vaccinated and those who have already had the illness before.
- Your child or anyone living with or in close contact with your child tests positive for COVID-19 or has a probable case of COVID-19.
- Your child has visited/played with other children who were having symptoms, especially coughs and sore throats
- Your child was part of a large gathering of people, especially indoors, where health department guidelines were not followed

Your child will not be able to attend until the required quarantine is over or, if they become ill, until the required isolation is over.

This is for the safety of all children, their families and staff. There are several families and staff who have people living with them or care for loved ones with suppressed/impaired immune systems and are at high risk of severe illness should they develop COVID-19 or any of the variants. Please do not be the cause of one of these people becoming ill because you do not think your child is really having any symptoms or for the inconvenience of having to follow this Illness Policy.

Should any case of COVID-19 occur, guidance for EDSE would be determined by Jefferson County Public Health Department.

I have read, understand, and will comply by the EDSE Temporary Illness Policy while it is in effect.

Child attending EDSE

Signature

Printed Name

Date: _____

7/21/2021