

Dear EDSE Families,

We have updated our Temporary Illness Policy due to the several emails sent out with updated and/or different guidelines on what to do should your child become ill. There have been many changes in rules, regulations and requirements over the months of dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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 your children and our staff. With so many people depending on full compliance of the Temporary Illness Policy, once again we are requiring your acknowledgement by signing and returning this letter.

We implore everyone to obey State Regulations which still includes social distancing, wearing masks, and "limiting social interactions to the greatest extent possible". But since we cannot control what others may do away from EDSE, your child has an increased chance of exposure to COVID-19. At EDSE, we continue to follow all daily cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting guidelines, handwashing, wearing face coverings, and social distancing to the best of our ability to further limit possible exposure of the virus.

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, *loss of taste or smell, *fatigue, *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 (sometimes less) 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 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.

When Jefferson and surrounding counties are in the Green Level of the “Status Dial” as described by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) **AND** when the Department of Early Childhood approves, your child’s Health Care Provider can provide an alternative diagnosis instead of a negative COVID-19 test result.

If children or staff have mild illness symptom(s) but you strongly believe the symptom(s) is because of seasonal allergies, please have your Health Care Provider confirm the allergy symptom(s) **in writing** and provide it to us.

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

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.
- 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.
- You have traveled to a state that does not require face masks and safe distancing.
- You and/or your child was part of a large gathering of people where Colorado 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. Should an outbreak 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

Printed Name

Signature

Date