

## EDSE TEMPORARY ILLNESS POLICY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### “COVID-19 Illness Policy”

**PLEASE KEEP THIS COPY FOR YOUR REFERENCE**

**Return only the Agreement Signature page**

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

##### **UP TO DATE and FULLY VACINATED:**

A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving all recommended doses in their primary series of COVID-19 vaccine. Being fully vaccinated does not grant that those exposed to COVID-19 do not have to quarantine. A person must be Up-To-Date for that privilege.

Up to date means a person has received all recommended doses in their primary series of COVID-19 vaccine, and a booster dose when eligible. Only those who are up to date with the COVID-19 vaccine do not have to quarantine if they are exposed to someone with a positive case of COVID-19.

##### **For EDSE children who had the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine:**

For children who started the Pfizer vaccine series before they were 5 years old, they are considered up to date two weeks after their 3<sup>rd</sup> dose. The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose should be administered at least 3 weeks after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose and the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose should be administered at least 8 weeks after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

For children who started the Pfizer vaccine series when they were 5 years or older, they are considered up to date two weeks after their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose should be administered at least 3 weeks after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose.

##### **For EDSE children who had the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine:**

They are Up-To-Date if it has been 2 weeks after they have received the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the Moderna vaccine. The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the vaccine should be administered at least 4 weeks after the first vaccine.

**For EDSE staff:** They are Up-To-Date immediately after they have received their booster dose. If not yet eligible for the booster dose, they are considered Up-To-Date 2 weeks after the final dose in the Primary series of the specific vaccine they received until the time when they are eligible for the booster dose. Booster doses are due 5 months after the final dose of the primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines and 2 months after the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

##### **SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19:**

\*Fever or chills, \*Cough, \*Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, \*Fatigue, \*Muscle or body aches, \*Headache, \*New loss of taste or smell, \*Sore throat, \*Congestion or runny nose, \*Nausea or vomiting, \*Diarrhea

Symptoms of COVID-19 that requires immediate emergency care: \*Trouble breathing, \*Persistent pain or pressure in the chest, \*New confusion, \*Inability to wake or stay awake, \*Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds

**CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19:** This means a person who has tested positive for Covid-19 or any of its variants whether or not the person has symptoms. The result can be from either a PCR or a Rapid Antigen test.

##### **CLOSE CONTACT or EXPOSURE:**

###### **WHILE AT EDSE:**

A child or staff member who is in a class with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 or who has been within 6 feet for a combined total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period while the person is contagious.

###### **AWAY FROM EDSE:**

1. A child or staff member who lives with a person who has a positive case of COVID-19.
2. A child or staff member who has been exposed to a person with a positive case of COVID-19 or any of its variants within 6 feet for a combined total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period while the person is contagious.

**ISOLATION:** This is for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is waiting for their test results while they are ill with COVID-19 symptoms. They must stay home and away from others during the time they are in isolation. They should wear a mask, if able, when around other family members. The safest isolation period of time is 10 days for those who have mild to moderate or no COVID-19 symptoms. The period of isolation may be shortened if certain conditions are met.

**QUARANTINE:** This is for a person who has been exposed to a person with a positive case of COVID-19 while that person is contagious or for a person who is having COVID-19 symptoms but have yet to be tested. They must stay at home and away from others while they see if they contract COVID-19. They should wear a mask, if able, when around others and family members. If the quarantine is due to being exposed to a person with a positive case of COVID-19, the current quarantine period of time is 10 days from the last day of exposure. However the 10 day quarantine may be shortened if certain conditions are met which is stated later in this document.

## **COVID-19 TESTS:**

A PCR /Molecular test is currently the most accurate type of COVID-19 test and is the preferred type of test that EDSE accepts with a negative result if we have asked for a test to be done for a child or staff who is ill with COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed to a person with a positive case of COVID-19.

A Rapid or At Home Antigen Test: Though less accurate, EDSE will now accept these tests due to less testing sites for PCR tests and the expense of the PCR test for those who are uninsured. It is the only test that should be used to shorten isolation as PCR tests are more sensitive and may show positive results when the person is no longer contagious.

**A PROPERLY WORN MASK** is a CLEAN mask that fits well over both the nose and mouth and is not constantly being adjusted.

**Any child or staff member that tests for COVID-19 using a Rapid at home test must take a photo of the test, making sure the photo has a time/date stamp for proof and the name of the person should be printed on the test.** This is because 1) if positive, it is important to know the date of the positive test to determine isolation time and 2) if there is proof a person has had COVID-19, that person does not need to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19 for 90 days after they had COVID-19 and 3) if negative, it provides proof by date that the person does not have COVID-19 so that person may be allowed to return to EDSE.

Positive home tests should be reported to the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

**For the safety of the children and staff, proof of COVID-19 vaccination and or proof of a positive COVID-19 test must be provided to EDSE for our records so the correct procedures are followed.**

**CHILD CARE ILLNESS POLICIES DIFFER FROM K – 12 SCHOOL ILLNESS POLICIES.** These differences are because 1) most children in childcare are not vaccinated against COVID-19, 2) children in childcare do not stay seated at desks but move around all over the classroom, 3) children in childcare shout and sing out more than children in school, increasing the distance the airborne droplets may spread, 4) children in childcare tend to be closer physically while playing, working, eating, and just moving about (they do not understand or at least have trouble following social distancing) and, 5) most children in childcare either are too young to wear masks or are not able to wear masks properly.

## **YOU ARE REQUIRED TO INFORM US IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19.**

You are also required to inform us if your child (or if the staff member) has been in close contact with anyone who has a positive case of COVID-19 or was in close contact with a person two days before that person developed symptoms of or tested positive for COVID-19.

**EDSE STATEMENT OF RISK:** We urge everyone to follow best practices according to Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Because we cannot control what others may do away from EDSE or how well they assess their own health or the health of their child and follow the EDSE Temporary Illness Policy, you and/or your child has an increased chance of exposure to COVID-19, its variants, and any contagious disease.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF A CHILD OR STAFF MEMBER DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?**

Any child or staff member who develop symptoms of covid-19 are required to inform EDSE even if the person is fully vaccinated or has had COVID-19 within the last 90 days. Certain symptoms by themselves may not require a COVID-19 test depending on the amount of COVID-19 cases in the community. The school nurse will inform you if your child or staff must take a COVID-19 test in that situation.

Please remember that certain symptoms, no matter or not if they are COVID-19 related, require a person to stay home for either 24 to 48 hours or more which has always been part of the regular Illness Policy. Those symptoms are fevers, vomiting, diarrhea, uncontrolled and/or near constant coughing, strep throat less than 24 hours treated with antibiotics, uncovered open sores/rashes to the skin, open sores in the mouth when drooling or mouthing items is present, lice or scabies, Hepatitis A, and vaccine preventable diseases. Other symptoms or diseases may exclude participation at EDSE if the child/staff cannot keep up or does not feel good enough to keep up with class and outdoor activities or requires enough extra care that the teacher or other staff cannot safely watch other children in the class.

For those who are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines or those who have proof of having COVID-19 within the previous 90 days: They can continue to attend EDSE as long as they feel well enough to fully participate in class and outdoor activities if: 1) they get a COVID-19 test and 2) properly wear a mask at all times except when eating or taking a nap. If the test result is negative, they can discontinue wearing a mask. If the test is positive, they must isolate, inform the EDSE nurse and follow isolation procedures.

For those who are NOT up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines, have not been vaccinated for COVID-19, or has no had COVID-19 within the last 90 days: They must stay at home and isolate until they have provided us proof that they have been tested for COVID-19. If the test result is negative, they may return to EDSE as long as they feel well enough to fully participate in class & outdoor activities and after providing us with proof of the negative test result. Proof can be 1) a copy of an official test result or 2) a photo of the home test result with name and date on the test or name and date on a piece of paper next to the test result. The photo should have a date stamp. If you take your child to your Health Care Provider, which is advised whenever a child is ill, please tell the Provider that your child's child care center requires a COVID-19 test.

We can also accept an Alternate Diagnosis from your Health Care Provider. However, that note from the Provider must meet certain criteria. You may need to inform the Provider that EDSE does not follow the less stringent school policies that do not require testing to return to school. The Alternate Diagnosis note must state the reason or symptoms for which the child/staff was examined. It must state a diagnosis other than COVID-19. If the diagnosis is for the flu or a cold, proof must be given that it is not COVID-19 (negative COVID test or positive test for something else). It must state *when* the child/staff may return to EDSE. We will not accept a simple "Return to School" note without the information stated above in this paragraph. Please remember we are a private child care/day school facility and are not part of the public school system. We can and do require testing for COVID-19 symptoms without an alternative diagnosis or to shorten either isolation or quarantine.

Children or staff who are not tested or do not obtain an alternate diagnosis, must remain in quarantine for 10 days from when symptoms started. The illness will be treated as a probable case of COVID-19. Day 0 is the first day symptoms started and day 1 is the following day. The return to EDSE would be on day 11 as long as the child or staff is well and is fever free for at least 24 hours prior to returning without the use of fever reducing medications.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF A CHILD OR STAFF MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?**

If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, it must be reported as soon as possible to the EDSE School Nurse. The School Nurse is required to determine if classmates or staff have been exposed. If there has been a classroom exposure, the class will need to be put in quarantine quickly to prevent an outbreak at EDSE.

The child or staff who tested positive for COVID-19 must isolate to prevent spreading the virus. Normal isolation is for 10 days, but currently that length of time might be able to be shortened if certain criteria are met. Day 0 is either the day the original positive test was taken if the positive person does not have symptoms of COVID-19 or Day 0 is the first day that symptoms started if the positive person has symptoms of COVID-19. At the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> day of isolation, if the child/staff is well or much better and has been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, the child/staff may take a **Rapid Antigen or Home test**. A PCR test is too sensitive to be used at that time and will probably detect the virus even when the person is no longer contagious. PLEASE FOLLOW DIRECTIONS CORRECTLY IF TAKING THE TEST AT HOME. There are many test out there and most of them have different instructions. If the result is positive, the person with COVID-19 will continue to stay in isolation. They can test again each day through Day 8. If still positive on Day 8, they should not take any more tests. After Day 10, if well or much better and are fever free, isolation is no longer required. If the test is negative (on Day 5 or after), then the child/staff may return to EDSE. However, the person MUST properly wear a mask AT ALL TIMES except when eating or napping for the remaining days through "Day 10". When eating or napping, the person must social distance to the best of the ability of the size of the classroom.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF A CHILD OR STAFF MEMBER IS EXPOSED OR IS A CLOSE CONTACT OF A PERSON WITH COVID-19?**

For those who are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines:

Quarantine is not necessary but the exposed person must wear a mask for 10 days *from the last date of close contact*. That person *should* get tested on the 5<sup>th</sup> day after the last day of exposure\*. If the test is negative, continue on with wearing the mask for the rest of the 10 days. If it is positive, the person must go into isolation and follow those procedures.

For those who have proof of having COVID-19 within the last 90 days:

Quarantine is not necessary but the exposed person must wear a mask for 10 days from the last date of close contact. Testing is not required unless the person develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the 10 days after the last day of exposure. If the test is negative, continue on with wearing the mask for the rest of the 10 days. If it is positive, the person must go into isolation and follow those procedures.

For those who are NOT UP TO DATE with their COVID-19 vaccines, have not been vaccinated for COVID-19, or has not had COVID-19 within the last 90 days:

That person must stay home and quarantine. The CDC has changed quarantine from 14 days to 10 days. 10 days is what EDSE requires if the person does not qualify for a shortened quarantine. If a person hopes for a shorter quarantine time they must monitor their health while in quarantine.. If the test is positive, the person must go into isolation and follow the isolation procedures. If no symptoms start occurring before day 5 after the last day of exposure\*, that person must take a COVID-19 test. If the test is positive, they must isolate and follow the isolation procedures. If the test is negative, after supplying proof of the negative test to EDSE, they may return to class but should properly wear a mask AT ALL TIMES except when eating or taking a nap for the remaining 10 days of quarantine. When eating or napping, the person must social distance to the best of the ability of the size of the classroom. If the person who was exposed should start having symptoms of COVID-19 at any time during the normal 10 day quarantine time, they should take a COVID-19 test right away. This is true even if they previously had a negative test and had returned to attending EDSE.

\*Calculating the days of Quarantine:

Day 0 is the last day of exposure or close contact to a person with COVID-19. What does “the last day of exposure” mean? That is easy if there was only one time an exposure happened. But if perhaps you were with a person all weekend (Saturday & Sunday) who ended up having COVID-19, then the last day of exposure would be Sunday. Sunday would be “Day 0”. If you live with a person who has COVID-19, the last day of exposure is harder to determine. The last day of exposure would be the last day the positive person in the household was in isolation – supposedly the last day the person was contagious - if they were following current CDC guidelines. The EDSE School Nurse would make that determination with the assistance of the family.

**IMPORTANT: Shortened isolation or quarantine cannot be done if the child is under two years old or cannot properly wear a mask at all times (except during naps or while eating).**

**FREQUENT POINTS WE ADDRESS:**

A child or staff with **continuous or near continuous coughing**, even if negative for COVID-19, should not be attending EDSE if it prevents the child or staff member from regular activities. That person should be seen by their Health Care Provider as well as get plenty of rest and fluids until their cough is better and they can fully participate in class activities.

**EDSE must be notified as soon as possible if any child or staff member is absent on a day they are scheduled to attend.** This is a requirement of the regular Illness Policy as well as this temporary Covid-19 Illness Policy. It is a State requirement that ALL illnesses must be tracked in case an outbreak is suspected. Outbreaks of any illness must be reported to Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) or CDPHE. If notification of the reason of absence is not given, the child/staff member may be denied attendance until a determination for the absence is obtained.

**REMEMBER, always provide us with any COVID-19 test results as soon as possible, especially if the test is positive so we can do everything possible to prevent an outbreak which closes classes but could possibly close the school.**

**EDSE TEMPORARY ILLNESS POLICY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AGREEMENT**  
**"COVID-19 Illness Policy"**

**I have received and read the Temporary Illness Policy during the COVID-19 Pandemic which was revised in July 2022, and agree to follow the policy. I understand if I do not follow the policy, my child may not be able to attend EDSE and no compensation will be given for the period of time not attended.**

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**(Name of Child)**

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**(Parent Signature)**

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**(Date)**

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**(EDSE Nurse Signature)**

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**(Date)**