



COVID GUIDELINES

~ A supplement to the Ellis Family Handbook ~

Updated October 2023

This document may also be accessed on the Ellis website – www.EllisEarlyLearning.org



CHILDREN UNDER 2

COVID EXPOSURE IN THE HOME PROTOCOL – ONGOING EXPOSURE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 2

- Report the positive case in the household to Ellis **via email** to Lauren and/or Claire (LaurenCook@EllisEarlyLearning.org or Cmcnally@EllisEarlyLearning.org)
- Exposed children **with symptoms** should stay home through Day 6 and test (rapid test is fine, EEC has approved “off-label” use of rapid antigen tests for children under 2, when administered by the parent or caregiver)
- Exposed children without symptoms should test (rapid test is fine) on the 6th day or later following the last exposure to the positive person.
- Asymptomatic children **may** attend Ellis during this time **but should take a rapid test on Day 6 at Ellis and mask at Ellis and isolate from the positive household member.**

COVID EXPOSURE OUTSIDE THE HOME PROTOCOL (TEST ON DAY 6 or LATER)

- Exposed children without symptoms should be rapid tested on Day 6 after exposure (at Ellis)
- Exposed children with COVID symptoms should stay home through Day 6 and take a rapid test. If symptoms subside before Day 6, take a rapid test to return earlier.
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COVID POSITIVE PROTOCOL FOR CHILDREN UNDER 2 (ISOLATION)

- Report the positive case in the household to Ellis **via email** to Lauren and/or Claire (LaurenCook@EllisEarlyLearning.org or Cmcnally@EllisEarlyLearning.org)
- Stay home for 5 days (positive test or symptom onset is Day 0)
- On Day 6 or later, take a rapid test to determine if still positive
- If the test is positive, continue to isolate until a negative test is obtained and the child is asymptomatic or symptoms subside through day 10, returning to care no later than day 11
- If two sequential tests on Day 6 or later are negative and your child is **asymptomatic**, your child may return to Ellis

*Submit negative test results **via email** to Lauren and/or Claire (LaurenCook@EllisEarlyLearning.org or Cmcnally@EllisEarlyLearning.org) to return to Ellis

CHILDREN AGES 2 AND UP

MASKING:

For children 3 years old and up in preschool classrooms, masks are optional, with the exception of the following circumstances in which masks are required:

- In the event a classroom community member tests positive.
- When student(s) or staff are exposed to an individual outside of Ellis who tested positive for COVID-19. Individuals with known exposures must wear a mask for 10 days after exposure.
- When student(s) or staff return to school from isolation within 10 days following their first positive test (if they have not had two sequential negative test results on Day 6 or later)
 - Important Note: Ellis community members must test negative prior to returning to Ellis, unless it’s been 11 days since the first positive test.



COVID EXPOSURE IN THE HOME PROTOCOL – ONGOING EXPOSURE FOR CHILDREN 2 AND UP

- Report the positive household case to Ellis **via email** to Lauren or Claire (LaurenCook@EllisEarlyLearning.org or Cmcnally@EllisEarlyLearning.org) and keep the child home if symptomatic
- Exposed children **with symptoms** should stay home through Day 6 and get tested (rapid is fine). If symptoms subside before Day 6, take a rapid test to return earlier.
- Exposed children **without symptoms** should test (rapid is fine) on the 6th day or later following the last exposure to the positive person.
- Asymptomatic children **may** attend Ellis during this time **but should take a rapid test on Day 6 at Ellis and mask at Ellis and isolate from the positive household member.**

COVID EXPOSURE (AT ELLIS OR ELSEWHERE) PROTOCOL FOR CHILDREN 2 AND UP (Test on Day 6 or later)

- Exposed children without symptoms should be tested (at Ellis) on Day 6 after exposure
- Exposed children with COVID symptoms should stay home through Day 6 and get tested (rapid is fine).

COVID POSITIVE PROTOCOL FOR THOSE OVER 2 (ISOLATION)

- Report the positive case to Ellis **via email** to Lauren or Claire (LaurenCook@EllisEarlyLearning.org or Cmcnally@EllisEarlyLearning.org)
- Stay home for 5 days (exposure date is Day 0)
- On Day 6, begin taking a rapid test daily (at home or Ellis) to determine when negative
- If the test is positive, continue to isolate until a negative test is obtained and the child is asymptomatic or symptoms subside through day 10, returning to care no later than day 11
- If two subsequent tests on Day 6 or later are negative and your child feels well/has subsiding symptoms, you may return to Ellis to take an on-site rapid tests to stay.

COVID Testing and Symptomatic Children

- Ellis accepts results from PCR, molecular, and rapid tests.
- The bolded and underlined COVID-19 symptoms below (when they occur alone) require immediate exclusion from care. The non-bolded symptoms will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

— **Fever (100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher,) child, or shaking chills**

— **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**

— **New loss of taste or smell**

— **Muscle aches or body aches**

— Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough. For persistent coughs, Ellis may request a doctor's note to confirm it is not to RSV or croup)

— Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms

— Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea when in combination with other symptoms

— Headache when in combination with other symptoms

— Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms

— Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms



- Regardless of COVID, children may not attend Ellis with a fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, or with gastrointestinal issues (nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea). *To return to Ellis following these symptoms, your child must be symptom-free without the aid of medications **for at least 24 hours.***

Classroom Modifications

- Ellis will continue to keep classrooms separate (in “cohorts”) for the foreseeable future out of an abundance of caution
 - Ellis hours will remain 8am – 5:30pm based on staffing constraints
- Tooth brushing will not take place
- Meals will remain packaged individually (rather than family style)