

Covid-19 and School Health Update February 2024

Last May, the CDC declared an end to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Many of the policies and procedures remain in place to ensure the health and safety of the community. Prairie Hill Waldorf School continues to follow the CDC guidelines and is committed to having open communication around our responsibility to maintain a healthy environment for students, families and staff.

Staying Home When Sick or Symptomatic

The CDC continues to recommend that people stay home when sick. Prairie Hill Waldorf School has a zero-tolerance policy for illness on campus. If your child displays symptoms of illness at school, they will be sent home. Symptomatic students will need to remain at home until their symptoms are resolved.

Please alert the school office when your student will be absent due to illness. It is important that the school reports all communicative illness to the community that may be affected. Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after [symptoms](#) begin. People who are symptomatic and awaiting COVID-19 test results or have tested positive for COVID-19 should follow [CDC's Isolation Guidance](#).

Isolation

People who **have tested positive** should remain home and follow the [CDC's Isolation Guidance](#). Isolation may end based on how serious someone's COVID-19 symptoms are.

- If you had no symptoms, isolation may end after day five (mask must be worn for 5 additional days when returning to school).
- If you have symptoms, isolation may end after day five if you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving (mask must be worn for 5 additional days when returning to school).

Exposure to COVID-19

The CDC recommends that all people with a known or suspected COVID-19 exposure regardless of vaccination status or history of prior COVID-19 infection follow [current CDC exposure recommendations](#). School policy will include:

- Wearing a [well-fitting mask](#) or respirator for a **full 10-day period** and getting tested at least **5 days** after close contact or sooner if [symptoms](#) develop.
- If at any time the test is positive, the isolation recommendations will be followed.
- If masking is not an option for your family, then the Isolation protocol above applies.

Thank you for your support, please contact the administrator with any questions.

Jeanne Ring

Administrator

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