

Ohr Kodesh ECC Respiratory Virus Protocols



“Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about caring for those you are in charge of.”
Simon Sinek

The past two years have challenged all of us to make many adjustments to our daily lives. We are asking you to continue to make adjustments as they are outlined in this document. **Our highest priority is the safety, health and well-being of our children and staff.**

This document is a plan to protect, to the best of our ability, our staff, children, and families from the spread of respiratory viral infections, including COVID-19.

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GENERAL GUIDELINES

There are communal responsibilities that all ECC families and staff members must adhere to for the ECC to remain open. Creating and maintaining a culture in which staff and families can rely on each other for compliance is essential for our continued operation.

The ECC has incorporated multiple strategies recommended for the health and safety of the children and staff:

- Policies and procedures are in place to monitor children and staff's health:
 - Children may be sent home if they appear to have symptoms of illness during the school day. In such cases, a parent/caregiver is contacted. In the event they cannot be reached or are unable to pick up your child, the next person on the emergency contact list will be contacted and required to pick up your child as soon as possible.
 - To help maintain the health of the ECC community, please keep your child home if they:
 - Have a fever, had a fever during the previous 24-hour period, or have **taken fever reduction medication in the past 24-hour period**
 - Have heavy nasal drainage or a constant cough
 - Have crust on the eyes or mucus discharge from the eyes
 - Have an undiagnosed rash
 - Exhibit an acute change in behavior, including lethargy/lack of responsiveness, irritability, or persistent crying
 - Have symptoms of possible communicable disease (e.g., reddened eyes, sore throat, headaches, abdominal pain, and fever)
 - This link offers helpful guidelines regarding when children may return to school:
<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/illnessandreportablediseasesinchildcare2015.pdf>
- Vaccination against COVID-19 is required for all children and staff.
- Masks are optional for children and staff inside and outside of the building except for when a child or staff member returns on Day 6 through Day 10 after a positive COVID-19 test or if there is a household COVID-19 exposure.

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- **Masks are strongly recommended** for children and staff who have a respiratory illness or active runny nose in view of the many respiratory infections circulating in the community, including influenza (flu), rhinovirus, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).
- Children and staff will work together to continue fostering a safe, healthy, and respectful environment for the ECC community.
- **UPDATED:** Hand washing
 - Children will engage in frequent, thorough hand washing with soap and water in a manner consistent with CDC guidance. At a minimum, children will wash their hands each time they enter the classroom, before and after touching their masks (if applicable), before and after snack, and before and after lunch.
 - Parents/caregivers are encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon entering the building.
 - Visitors (including parents/caregivers) who visit the classroom will wash their hands with soap and water in a manner consistent with CDC guidance.

COMMUNICATION

Parents/caregivers must have their cell phones on during the day in the event ECC staff need to reach them.

An exposure to COVID-19 or diagnosis of COVID-19 for an ECC student or family member must be disclosed to the ECC as soon as possible.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

Children enrolled in the ECC are required to become fully vaccinated (and boosted) for COVID-19.

Your child will be considered **fully vaccinated** after receiving the last dose of the COVID-19 series for their age.

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MASKS

The ECC has a mask optional policy for both children and staff:

Masks optional when: children and staff are indoors and outdoors

UPDATED: *Masks strongly recommended when:* children and staff have a respiratory illness or active runny nose in view of the many respiratory infections circulating in the community, including influenza (flu), rhinovirus, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

Masks required when: children and staff have a positive COVID-19 household exposure or Days 6 through 10 following a positive COVID-19 test result as outlined in the COVID-19 policies below

UPDATED: Parents/caregivers should send an email to their child's morning and afternoon educators if they would like their child to be masked.

It is important to note that there may be times in the future, circumstances to be determined, when masks will be required for everyone.

Parents/caregivers should provide masks for their children to be used in the event of a positive COVID-19 exposure. A sufficient supply of clean/unused masks should be provided to allow replacing used masks as needed.

Parents/caregivers should be sure the masks are: (1) **clearly marked with your child's first and last name**; and (2) clearly marked and/or designed to distinguish which side of the mask should be worn facing outwards so they are worn properly each day.

UPDATED: If ECC staff finds your child is not able to wear a well-fitting mask, your child will need to be picked up from school.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND EXPOSURE

If Your Child Experiences COVID-19 Symptoms

UPDATED: If your child experiences any ONE of the symptoms listed, they may continue to attend school (except for instances where they should remain home for general illness as listed on page 2) subject to testing negative for COVID-19 as indicated below. **While in school, it is strongly recommended that your child wear a well-fitting mask consistently while indoors**

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until all symptoms are gone. If your child still has symptoms on Day 5 and tests negative (either with a rapid or PCR test), they no longer need to mask.

- Fever (100.4 or higher) 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

Rapid test: Your child should be tested with a rapid test for COVID-19 on Day 0, the first day of symptoms, then Day 1 and Day 2. Each day the rapid test is negative, your child may return to school.

PCR test: Your child may be tested with a PCR test for COVID-19 as early as Day 0. If the PCR test is negative, your child may return to school.

Cue test: Your child may also be tested with a NAAT (Nucleic Acid Amplification Test) for COVID-19 as early as Day 0 using the at-home [Cue Testing Platform](#). The NAAT is considered PCR equivalent. If the NAAT is negative, your child may return to school.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please see below.

*If your child is congested or has a runny nose, please do not bring them to school unless they have been tested as described above.

*If your child is congested, has a runny nose, or other symptom as a result of a respiratory illness (including flu, rhinovirus, or RSV), they are **strongly** urged to wear a well-fitting mask consistently while indoors until all symptoms are gone.

*If your child has a chronic condition such as a cough, rhinitis, or post-nasal drip, etc., the ECC must have an alternate diagnosis from a medical doctor on file. Please reach out to your pediatrician or specialist and send the note to Ruthie Cohen, Assistant Director, at rcohen@ohrkodesh.org.

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Should your child's educator observe any symptoms of COVID-19 throughout the school day, they will be in touch with you. You will be asked to pick up your child and follow the testing guidelines described above.

If Your Child Tests Positive for COVID-19

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 either by a rapid test, PCR test, or Cue test, Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the day your child is tested for the positive result. Your child should isolate at home through Day 5.

Your child may return to the ECC on Day 6 if they are fever free without medication for at least 24 hours and with improving symptoms. On Day 6 through Day 10, they will be **required** to wear a well-fitting mask consistently while indoors and sit away from others during snack and lunch. Masking is not required outdoors.

UPDATED: If ECC staff finds your child is not able to wear a well-fitting mask, your child will need to be picked up from school.

If Your Child Has a Positive COVID-19 Household/General Exposure

UPDATED: Household Exposure: A Household Exposure is defined as a positive COVID-19 test for a member of your child's household. Your child may continue to attend school so long as:

- (1) Your child does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (if your child is experiencing symptoms, see above);
- (2) Your child tests daily on Day 1 through Day 5 after exposure; they may continue to attend school subject to testing negative; and
- (3) Your child wears a well-fitting mask consistently while indoors on Day 1 through Day 5 after exposure and sits away from others during snack and lunch. Masking is not required outdoors.
- (4) It is strongly recommended that your child wear a KN95* or NIOSH-approved N95 mask.

*The ECC can supply KN95 masks for your child to wear at school.

UPDATED: If ECC staff finds your child is not able to wear a well-fitting mask, your child will need to be picked up from school.

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UPDATED: General Exposure: A General Exposure is defined as a positive COVID-19 test for a member of your child’s morning or afternoon class, or other exposure outside your child’s home such as a birthday party, visit with friends, etc. Your child may continue to attend school so long as:

- (1) Your child does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (if your child is experiencing symptoms, see above); and
- (2) Your child tests on Day 5 after exposure.
- (3) It is strongly recommended that your child wear a well-fitting mask consistently while indoors on Day 1 through Day 5 after exposure. Masking is not required outdoors.

UPDATED: Parents/caregivers should send an email to their child’s morning and afternoon educators if they would like their child to be masked.

If your child has been exposed to COVID-19 at the ECC, you will be notified immediately that your child has been exposed.