



COVID Plan for the 2023-2024 School Year

COVID POLICY as of September 15, 2023 (created in consultation with Hamilton County Health Department)

Current Policy (Subject to Change)

At this time Anderson Hills Preschool will not require staff or children to wear masks while attending preschool. Parents may choose to send their child in a mask if desired. Anderson Hills Preschool will monitor community transmission, the occurrence of outbreaks, and local policies and regulations to guide decisions on the use of layered prevention strategies. In the event of increased transmission or outbreaks in our community, one or more of the following layered prevention strategies may be implemented: mask wearing, limiting the number of children and staff that meet together, improved ventilation, limiting access to the preschool or closing classrooms.

Staying Home When Sick

Children who have symptoms of any infectious illness, such as influenza or COVID-19, must stay home and may be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to prevent spread to others.

The overlap between COVID-19 symptoms with other common illnesses means that some people with symptoms of COVID-19 could be ill with something else. This is even more likely in young children, who typically have multiple viral illnesses each year.

Children with the following symptoms will not be permitted to attend the preschool:

- Fever (temperature 100.4 °F or higher)
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or stomach ache
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Children who have COVID-19 can be around others after:

- 2 negative tests within 48 hours after day 5 **AND** are able to wear a mask consistently while in school

OR

- 10 full days since symptoms first appeared or positive test date if child did not exhibit any symptoms (returning to school on Day 11) **and**
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

Quarantine Information

Children, regardless of vaccination status, are not required to quarantine after exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. If possible, children who are exposed to someone with COVID should wear a properly fitting mask when within six feet of others and be continuously monitored for symptoms. Children who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 should be tested on day 6 after the final day of exposure, regardless of whether or not he/she shows symptoms.

Close contact is defined as within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 48-hour period. Note: Testing must take place on Day 6, **five full days after their last exposure** to that person. Meaning, if a child is in continuous contact with a parent or sibling that has tested positive for COVID, he/she should be tested 6 days after the family member tests negative, or 6 days after 10 days of isolation.

If a child develops symptoms while in a classroom with other children, that child will immediately be isolated and sent home. The classroom will be cleaned, disinfected and properly ventilated to reduce the risk of infection. The preschool may choose to close a classroom for a period of time to prevent spreading of the virus.

Each diagnosis will be handled on a case-by-case basis and parents will be notified if their child has been impacted.

Reporting Requirements

Please notify the preschool office if your child develops COVID-19 or were exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. We are required to report all COVID-19 cases to both the Hamilton County Department of Health and our licensing agency, the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS).

As stated in our parent handbook, no refund of tuition will be made because of absenteeism due to quarantine regulations affecting your child and/or the class.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to school! Please feel free to contact me at 513-231-4688 or kmconnors@andersonhills.org if you have any questions.

Katie Connors
Preschool Director