



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE *recently revised* SPRUCE TREE MONTESSORI COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN

- If my child has symptoms, what should I do?

- This is a key element of our success – please keep your child home when they are sick.
- Symptoms include fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, as well as congestion (even a runny nose), body aches, and headache – all are considered common COVID symptoms. We recommend a visit to see your pediatrician to have your child checked out and your provider may suggest a COVID test – prevention is key – and per Dr. Zink even providers can not tell the difference between common cold, flu, COVID, even the onset of bronchitis, so a test is critical to prevent the spread of COVID. If your child has symptoms and gets tested, we ask that you keep your child home until test results come back negative. Please call the school office at 479-8733 to report absences for illness.
- This applies to you as well (or other household family members). If Mom or Dad or sibling is showing symptoms and anyone gets a test, we ask that you keep your student home from school until the family member's results come back negative.
- **Negative tests are not required to return to school. When your child's symptoms resolve, they are welcome back to class.**

- Who and what is a close contact and why?

- The CDC defines close contacts as anyone (child or teacher) who comes within six feet of a COVID+ person for a total of 15 minutes or more on the days of exposure; all members of your child's cohort (or class) are not considered close contacts due to the data surrounding nearly 0% transmission in schools when strict masking is in place. Close contacts will be determined after careful review of the length and type of exposure, including factors such as masking and symptoms.
 - Days of exposure? The days of exposure are the days that the COVID+ person is presumed to be contagious/able to spread the virus. Public Health defines those days as the day of symptoms onset and the two days (48 hours) prior to the day of symptoms onset.

- **So what do we do if our child is named a close contact?**

- Close contacts are advised by Public Health to quarantine. The length of quarantine as determined by public health is currently 7 - 10 days from the last date of exposure to the COVID+ person.
 - If testing is available, close contacts can test on the 5th day in order to shorten their quarantine time.
 - What do we do during quarantine? Public Health will advise you to stay home and not have outside visitors into your home. Spruce Tree will provide virtual learning for the duration of any/all student quarantines.
 - Do I have to quarantine? Parents and siblings of close contacts are considered secondary contacts, and secondary contacts do not have to quarantine. Siblings of close contacts may attend school and parents of close contacts may go to work (unless your employer says otherwise of course).

- **What do I do if my child tests positive for COVID?**

- Please call Sabrina right away, 479-8733 or 590-2829. She is obligated to inform the Spruce Tree parent community as soon as possible by email (your child's name will be withheld from the alert email).
 - Keep your child home from school for the duration of your child's isolation period. Your provider will contact Public Health and they will define your child's isolation period (which is currently 10 days), and support you during your child's illness. Your child, if feeling well enough to do so, should log into their Canvas classroom and participate in live lessons via Zoom, again if they're feeling up for it. As you've likely heard, COVID affects everyone differently... from few and very minor symptoms to all and hard to handle symptoms.
 - You and your household members will be identified as close contacts unless you were isolating or out of the home on the days of potential exposure.
 - If you have two children who attend Spruce Tree, then the sibling of the C+ child (a close contact) can not attend school in person for the duration of the quarantine period defined as 7 - 10 days, depending on testing.
 - Sabrina will identify close contacts of your C+ child. The parents and teachers in your class will be alerted by Sabrina.

- **If we travel outside of Alaska, what do we need to do when we come back? Refer to p. 4 of our Mitigation Plan.**
 - As of 2/14/2021, the State of Alaska withdrew Travel Mandate 10. State Health Advisory #2 provides current guidance on travel.
 - Basically it encourages testing prior to or upon your return to Alaska and encourages social distancing until test results are available; all of which is encouraged but not required and Spruce Tree aligns with that advisory.
 - If Mom or Dad travels outside for work, your child does not have to social distance. They are welcome at school throughout your trip and upon your return.
- **So will the school close the next time a teacher or student tests positive?**
 - No. We will identify children who we believe have high probability of exposure and only those children will be advised to test or quarantine. Cohorts will not be closed and moved to remote learning status due to a C+ fellow student so long as masking was in place on the day of exposure.
 - We will support any/all quarantines with virtual learning.
 - We have devices to lend if your child needs one; recommended devices for virtual learning are iPads or computers, phones screens are too small.
 - We'll schedule pick ups for printable lessons/work from the main school office. You'll receive specific information about device and packet pick up as needed.
- **What are the expectations for my child when it comes to virtual learning?**
 - For preK: We understand the limitations for screen engagement with young children. We expect you to connect your child to his/her class on zoom and meet with your teacher individually on zoom as scheduled. Our virtual learning will be varied; i.e. activities, use of iPad apps, and live lessons with your teachers, including songs and time to talk to friends. We're asking that you try... if you can't get your child to engage, it's okay, it's not a requirement of your enrollment. Your Canvas classroom will provide links to printable activities as well.
 - For Kindergarteners: We expect kindergartens to attend live lessons on zoom, zoom meetings with their class, and meet with their teacher regularly. Attendance is taken. We will provide printable kindergarten work and links to academic apps or educational videos that align with lesson plans.

- For Lower El: Lower El students are expected to use the Canvas classroom to attend all zoom classes, live lessons, and individual or small group meetings with their teacher. Attendance is taken. Lower El students will have printable work to do at home as follow up assignments to live lessons, reading assignments, and assignments within apps (like Khan Academy and others). Students are expected to turn in completed work upon their return.
- For Upper El: Upper El students are expected to use the Canvas classroom to attend all zoom classes, live lessons, and individual or small group meetings with their teacher. Attendance is taken. Completion of printable assignments as well as online assignments / use of apps, and daily reading are required.

Do you have additional questions? Email or call Sabrina anytime.

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