

Health & Safety COVID-Plan for School Opening 2022-2023



Clarke Schools
for Hearing and Speech

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General health and medical policies and procedures are in the Family Handbook and should be referred to in addition to COVID related information in this document.

Required of All Parents

NYC Department of Daycare requires parents to notify Clarke that a child will be absent before 7:30 am each school day. Parents must share the reason for the absence.

- Send a message through Class Dojo
- Call and leave a message 212-585-3500
- Email dnunez@clarleschools.org.

Parents/caregivers should not send children to school unless healthy, no symptoms of illness and able to participate in all school activities.

If your child has symptoms of illness, even if it might be allergies, they must stay home. Examples of symptoms include:

KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME for these and other symptoms of illness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Fever (100.0-degree Fahrenheit or higher, chills, 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)● Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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.

Children who arrive at school sick or showing signs of illness will be isolated under supervision and their parents will be called to pick them up. **Parents are expected to pick up children within an hour.**

Definitions

- Isolation is for people who have symptoms of covid or test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.
 - Quarantine is for people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
 - Exclusion is the time the child or staff cannot attend the childcare program.
 - A close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 or more minutes over a 24-hour period regardless of face mask use.
 - Fully vaccinated means two weeks after your single-dose vaccine or second dose of a two-dose vaccine. For information on how to quarantine and isolate, including precautions that should be taken and available resources, visit on.nyc.gov/quarantine-isolation.
 - Up to date vaccinations means a person has received any eligible boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
 - Day 0/Day 1:
 - For illness, Day 0 is the day of first symptoms or the day of a positive test result if there were no symptoms and Day 1 is the next day, to start isolation/quarantine
- Well-fitted mask: the mask fits snugly over the nose and mouth and under the chin and there are no gaps around the sides and the wearer leaves it on without reminders.

Masks/Face Coverings

- Clarke is a “mask-positive” environment. Masks are optional other than certain situations.
- Children ages 2 and older and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are **required** to wear a mask when:

- Returning to school after testing positive for COVID-19 on Day 6-Day 10, including when traveling on a school bus.
- When supervising a sick child
- Anyone with symptoms of illness at school
- **Are strongly encouraged** to wear a mask:
 - For 10 days if exposed to someone with COVID-19 at school or outside of school.
 - Get tested on Day 5.
 - If they are moderately to severely immunocompromised.
 - In crowded indoor settings
- **May choose to wear a mask**
 - Personal health reasons or by choice.

COVID exposure or illness at school

- If a child is exposed to covid, at school or outside of school, and has no symptoms of illness, they can return to school if they are able to wear a mask for the 10 days after exposure.
- Anyone exposed to covid is strongly encouraged to test for covid on day 5.
- All exposed individuals should monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for 10 days after their exposure. If symptoms begin, they must stay home and get tested.
- Parents must notify Clarke of the exposure.
- If a child has symptoms of illness at school:
 - ✓ the child's temperature will be checked.
 - ✓ staff will make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
 - ✓ the parent will be contacted to pick up their child as soon as possible, preferably within an hour.
 - ✓ A sick child will be isolated away from their class with staff member until parent arrives.

COVID or Other Illness or Symptoms

1. Covid Positive

Children who test positive for COVID-19, may return to the program after day 5 if all the following are met:

- Isolate for 5 days
- Have no active symptoms
- Have not had a fever for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication.
- Can wear a well-fitting mask through day 10.
- Clarke's Health and Safety Manager has reviewed and cleared the child to return.

2. Children who have symptoms of illness that are not covid:

- Must test negative for covid on a home, quick or PCR test and the result sent to Clarke.
- They have not had a fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine
- They have been symptom free for 24 hours
- If diagnosed with a different illness, such as strep throat, the doctor has provided a note confirming that diagnosis and when the child is cleared to return.
- Clarke's Health and Safety Manager has reviewed and cleared the child to return

Community Notification

Clarke will notify anyone who was in contact with a person with covid at school as soon as possible. Clarke cannot share the name of the covid positive person with families. In the event of a full building closure, the larger community will also be notified.

Metrics for Closing There may be times when Clarke's building is closed and education and therapies are provided remotely, such as:

1. Under direction of any city or state agency with the authority to require a closure.
2. To reduce or stop a contagious illness from spreading.

3. NYC COVID Data Dashboard indicates high/dangerous community cases such as percent positives, percent positive for children 0-4 years, hospital capacity, and local transmission.
4. If busing is not available for in-person learning due to a DOE closure
5. Staff absences impact safely running the program
6. Issues of civil unrest affecting safety of staff or students, either in the building or during their commutes
7. Due to inclement weather

Remote Learning Plan

Whole Class: the teacher/school will share the schedule, zoom links, and asynchronous learning activities in a letter to each family as soon as possible via Class Dojo. If a child is unable to participate in any real time lessons on zoom or asynchronous sessions, as confirmed by the parent, each day, the child will be marked absent.

Related Services (Speech, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy): The therapist will send parents options for scheduling. If sessions can't be scheduled, the child will be marked absent.

Remote Learning Plans for Individual Cases A remote learning plan may be available for a child who is absent due to covid or another illness resulting in a long absence. If the rest of the child's class is in-person, it will be difficult to provide a remote plan therefore this will be considered on a child-by-child basis.

Expectations for Families of Children with Remote Learning Plans: A parent or caregiver must be with the child for all remote learning sessions. A parent or caregiver is responsible for knowing and following the schedule and signing into zoom 5 minutes before the scheduled time. Parents/caregivers should email or call if they can't make a session, communicate with the teacher about completion of asynchronous activities and communicate with the teacher and therapists about any questions or problems.

Visitors

- Visitors to the building during the preschool day must show proof of vaccination to enter the building.
- All visitors will complete the Visitor Health Survey, which will also be used for contact tracing.
- Visitors will be limited.
- Visitors will not be allowed in to use the bathroom.