

COVID POLICY

Auburn University-Harris Early Learning Center

Updated: 8.16.22



We at the Auburn University Harris Early Learning Center are committed to serving our children and families in the midst of an unpredictable health pandemic. We are continually working to adjust to the changing ever-changing terrain of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Center COVID-19 policies are informed by Auburn University's policies and regulations regarding COVID-19 and the CDC guidelines and recommendations. Policies and procedures may be updated and changed based on guidance from Auburn University and the CDC. Outside of HELC, in order to control exposure in the community, families and staff are encouraged to comply with any and all state, county or local safety orders.

CLEANING PROCEDURES

- Spaces are frequently sanitized and informed by Auburn University's COVID-19 Policies and CDC guidelines. The Center uses NAEYC guidelines and schedule for sanitation and cleaning.

HANDWASHING PROCEDURES

- Children and staff will be required to wash their hands using health department hand-washing procedures throughout the day using warm water and rubbing with soap for at least 20 seconds. Practice of this at home is recommended to support this policy.

MASKING



- Masking is optional.
- If you would like your child to mask, please let your child's teacher know so that they can support them. We cannot force a child to mask if they are unwilling.

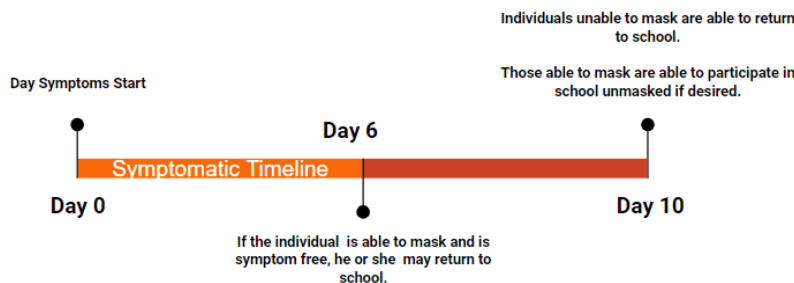
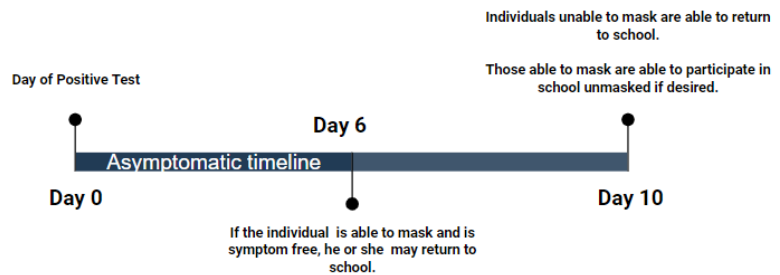
**An individual may be required to mask after they return to school after a positive test, please see below

QUARANTINING POLICY

- An individual must quarantine if they were to test positive for COVID or if they exposed AND demonstrate symptoms.
- Close-contact exposures without symptoms or a positive test do not require a quarantine period.
- Day 0 of quarantine begins on the onset of symptoms, or if asymptomatic, the date of the positive test.
- If the individual is 2 or older and able to mask, they may return to school after 5 days if they have no symptoms. They must mask for 5 days upon return (days 5-10).
- If the child is under 2 and unable to mask, the child may return to school after 10 days of quarantine.



QUARANTINING TIMELINES



NOTIFICATION

- Parents are expected to immediately notify an HELC director if their child were to test positive for COVID-19 to confirm a return date for their child. Staff are also expected to communicate immediately with an HELC director if they were to test positive for COVID-19.

CONTINGENCY PLANS

- We will aim to keep the Center open for as many hours a day as we can safely staff rooms and follow the above protocols.
- If we have a critical mass or constellation of teachers, substitutes, or administrators out (more than our administrators and existing subs can cover), we will close classrooms or the center as a last resort.
 - We must meet accreditation and licensure guidelines for teacher-child ratios; we must provide employee breaks and lunches; we must follow the COVID-protocols above.
 - It is not possible to specify a number of positive cases or proportion necessary for full closure given the emergent character of situation-specific contingencies.
- Harris Early Learning staff will inform families as soon as practical when classroom or facility closures are necessary.
- We follow Auburn University Human Resources guidance at the Harris Early Learning Center. In the interest of protecting employee privacy, we will not release identifiable health information about individuals or categories of employees. The small number of staff at Harris make it especially important to be mindful of privacy.
- In line with best-practice in the field, we protect the health information of children at the Center. We will not release identifiable health information about individual children.

ILLNESS/CLOSURES

- Families are expected upon notification of illness or closure to arrive at the center to pick up their child within 30 minutes of being notified. Emergency contact information is required for each child.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- As of now there are no restrictions placed upon family engagement (classroom visits, family/teacher conferences, Parent Representative Group Meetings, etc) or extracurricular activities (Soccer Shots, Children's Dance Foundation)

SUMMARY

While present in the Center each day, children and staff will be in contact with other children, families and employees who are also at risk of community exposure. We understand that no list of restrictions, guidelines, or practices will remove 100% of the risk of exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness. Like many illnesses, the virus can be transmitted by persons who are asymptomatic and before some people show signs of infection. Each family/staff member play a crucial role in keeping everyone in the Center safe and reducing the risk of exposure by following the practices herein along with recommendations of local, state, and federal guidelines.

For further guidance visit <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/> or <http://auburn.edu/covid-resource-center/>

In signing this document, we agree to all above outlined policies, procedures, and expectations and understand that Harris Early Learning Center may update or alter these procedures based on guidance from Auburn University and the CDC.

Child(ren)'s Name(s): _____

Guardian 1 Name (Print) Guardian 1 Signature Date

Guardian 2 Name (Print) Guardian 2 Signature Date

