

The Early Learning Community at Pacific University



In the Spring of 2020, schools in Oregon were required to close due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Over the summer, the staff and administrators of the Early Learning Community (ELC) extensively reviewed the scientific literature on this disease, its effect on children and adults, and best practices for remaining safe in and out of schools. As we approach the beginning of the school year, the ELC has developed a strategy for safely reopening in-person learning when the [metrics released by Governor Brown](#) have been met. As of July 31st, 2020, these metrics have not been met. The intent of this guide is to share the steps that we have taken to provide a safe learning environment throughout the 2020-2021 School Year. The ELC will be following the guidance offered by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine](#), in adopting the “goal of having students physically present in school” as much as is safely possible. Once the ELC is able to safely re-opened in-person classes, please recognize this may change at any time due to further directives from the Governor, the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) or [Oregon Health Authority](#). If at any time the risks to student or staff health become unsafe, the school will transition to distance learning.

Family Cooperation for Safe Learning

While we have been working diligently to provide a safe environment on the university campus, the success of in-person learning will require families to closely adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document. Please read them carefully and let us know if you have any questions.

Reopening Plan for
School Year 2020-2021

Guidelines for Safe Learning

Health Screening at the Beginning of the School Day

Upon arrival to school, each student will be screened for a health assessment. Staff will take the temperature of each student and ask parents to self-report any COVID symptoms that their child may have. If a child's temperature is 100.4 or above or they exhibit or report symptoms of COVID illness such as cough, shortness of breath, or fever, they will be required to return home and encouraged to isolate.

Home Safety and Reporting

Family members are asked to regularly monitor household members for COVID-19 symptoms. Students who are exhibiting symptoms or have family members who are exhibiting symptoms need to stay home. Additionally, any student or member of that student's immediate family who has been exposed to confirmed cases or who has received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, will be required to report that information to an ELC administrator.

Drop off and Pick Up

The process of drop-off and pick-up will incorporate staggered start times and utilize multiple entrances. Parents will be asked to adhere to the classroom arrival time and line up at the designated door along a socially-distanced marked path. It is important that children remain close to parents and caregivers at all times during the drop off procedure. Staff members will be present to guide children to their classroom, where they will begin the day by washing their hands before joining their peers.

Face coverings and Masks

All students in the ELC will be required to wear masks as much as possible throughout the school day. In accordance with directives by the Oregon Health Authority, children 5 years and older are currently required to wear masks. If your child is not already used to wearing a mask or face covering at home, we ask that you use these weeks ahead to familiarize your child with mask wearing to help with this transition. While students can bring their own masks from home, we will also have a supply of masks for student to use in the event that they do not have one.

ELC Staff and administration will be required to wear face coverings or masks throughout the day, covering both nose and mouth. Parents, designated adults or other family members are required to wear masks during school pick up and drop off, as well as any other time while on the Pacific University campus.

Visitors and Volunteers

To prevent additional risks to the ELC community, we will be closing all ELC classrooms to visitors and volunteers. As a means of keeping our community safe, only essential visitors wearing masks or face covering will be allowed in the foyer to speak to an administrator. We encourage the use of electronic communication whenever possible.

Social Distancing

Classrooms have been expanded into adjacent rooms to allow increased social distancing. This expansion will permit the extra space to be used to group students into small cohorts of 10 or fewer students. The extra space designated specifically for a cohort will enable the six-feet of social distancing between students recommended by the CDC.

Classroom Material and Supplies

As a means of minimizing the touching of shared materials, teachers will provide each individual student with a container of classroom supplies and learning materials. Whenever possible, students will use only these materials provided to them. These supplies will be sent home with children in the event that we need to transition to distance learning.

Lunches and Snacks

Students must bring their own lunch and snack foods from home. Please send your child with containers that they can open on their own and that require minimal assistance from teachers. Students will eat lunch and snacks in their classroom spaces.

Increased Sanitation Practices

Students and staff are expected to use appropriate handwashing measures regularly throughout the day. Every classroom will have hand sanitizer available for use, and sanitizer will be distributed throughout the school; indoors and out.

Throughout the day we will be implementing increased sanitation and cleaning practices for classroom surfaces, and will be limiting the use of shared classroom materials so that they may be sanitized between use.

As a relatively new building, Berglund hall has an excellent heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system that includes high-level filtration.

Extended Care Services

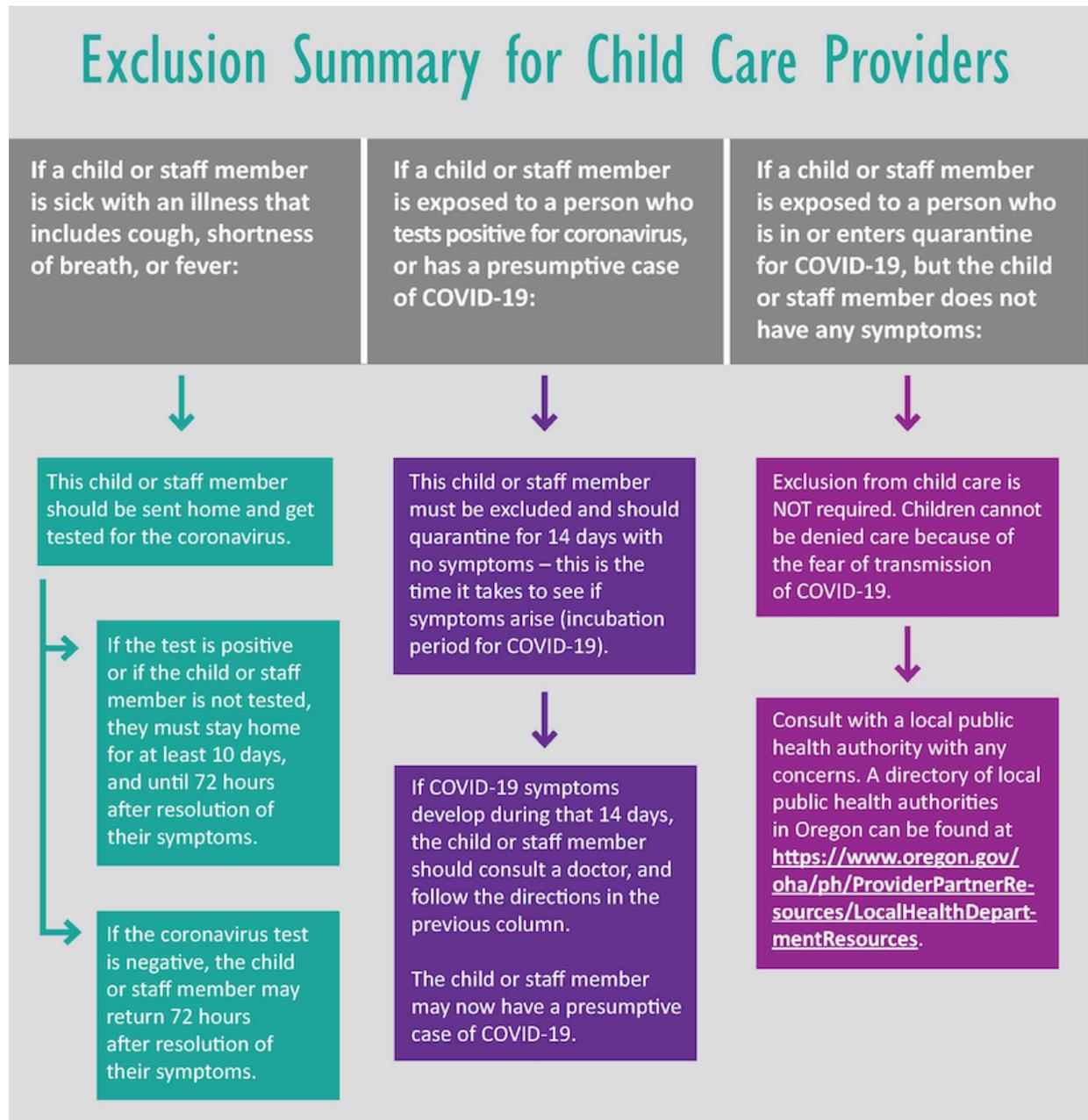
To limit exposure and increase safety, extended care services will be limited in the total number of children we can accept, and in the hours of care that will be available. This change will provide staff additional time for cleaning and sterilizing the learning environments. Further information about the details of extended care will be sent out as soon as possible. We urge you to review your needs for this service and to sign up only for the times you are likely to use and for the minimum amount of time you will require. This will allow those parents who are need of this program in order to continue to work, have access to this service.

Isolation Procedures

If children develop symptoms of illness while at school, we have created an isolation room that will allow the affected child to separate from their peers as they are waiting for pick-up. As directed by the Oregon Department of Education, if these symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, or fever the child will be sent home, and should be tested for coronavirus. Parents whose children have been moved to the isolation room are required to pick up their children within 30 minutes of receiving call from administration.

Exclusion Protocol

The ELC will be following the Exclusion protocol recommended by the Oregon Department of Education - Early Learning Division.



If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our school community, including, staff, students, or individuals' household members, the ELC will follow guidance from the Oregon Department of Health (ODH) regarding closures of the affected classrooms, or a school wide closure. In accordance with CDC and the ODH protocols, we will sanitize or temporarily close any at-risk areas of the school for deep cleaning. We will also support efforts for contact tracing and enforcing the quarantine of those affected.

Thank You

The development of these policies and procedures has been designed to enable all members of the Early Learning Community to be as safe as possible while they are in our care. However, these plans can only be successful if each of us does our part in school and out, to practice social distancing, wear face coverings, regularly wash their hands, and conscientiously implement other best practices during this pandemic. Thank you for your confidence in our planning and for your ongoing support of the ELC. Please let us know if you have any concerns, questions, or ideas you would like to share with us.