



Warren W. Cherry Preschool 2023-24 COVID-19 Protocols

The following protocols have been adopted following the new guidance from our governing bodies. During the pandemic, DCFS, the CDC and the Evanston Health Department have amended their guidance many times. Therefore, the following protocols are subject to change.

- By signing off that you have read our COVID policies you are agreeing that you will only send your child to school if they have not tested positive for COVID and are free of COVID symptoms. Daily health surveys will no longer be required.
- If your child has a fever or diarrhea, DCFS policy requires that your child be fever free and diarrhea free, without medication, for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Cherry Preschool will be mask optional for the 2023-24 school year provided the COVID community level remains low to medium. **We will follow the DCFS recommended protocol and encourage mask wearing from our staff and students indoors when Evanston's community COVID level reaches a level of high. We will also recommend mask wearing indoors when there has been a classroom COVID exposure.**
- We encourage parents to have their children that are 2 years and older practice wearing masks.
- If you choose to have your child wear a face mask at school, you will be responsible for sending your child to school daily in a clean cloth mask or unused paper mask. Likewise, if Evanston's community COVID level moves to a level of high or if a child has had an exposure to COVID-19, all parents will be responsible for sending their children to school in clean cloth or unused paper masks.
- Following the guidance of our governing bodies, we will no longer be closing classrooms when there is a COVID exposure unless there is a classroom outbreak (2 or more children testing positive resulting from a COVID school exposure). Even in that case, decisions to close classrooms will only be made by the Evanston Health Department if they feel it is warranted.
- We will no longer be issuing refunds for classroom COVID closures.
- If a child or staff member is exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (whether in their household, outside of school, or at school), notify the preschool immediately. The exposed individual should wear a well-fitting mask indoors for 10 days but can continue to attend school. Please monitor your child for symptoms and test with an antigen home test at day 6 day after exposure, with day one being the day following the exposure. We highly recommend testing at day 1, day 3 and day 6. You will only need to inform Cherry Preschool of the results if your child tests positive.

- We strongly recommend children who cannot or do not wear a mask to stay home the first five days following a COVID exposure, with day one being the day after exposure. Please monitor your child for symptoms and test with an antigen home test on day 6. If that test is negative, your child may return to school. You will only need to inform Cherry Preschool of the results if your child tests positive.
- Regardless of vaccination status, If your child tests positive for COVID they will be required to isolate at home for 5 days, with day 1 being the day after they test positive. On day 6,
 - ❖ If your child can reliably wear a face mask, your child can return to school wearing a mask indoors from days 6-10. After day 10 your child can return to mask optional.
 - ❖ If your child can reliably wear a face mask, your child can return to school but shorten the length of mask wearing indoors if you administer two sequential antigen home tests 48 hours apart (on day 6 and day 8). If both tests are negative, your child can return to mask optional on day 9.
 - ❖ If your child cannot or does not wear a face mask, they should isolate at home for the full ten days or you can administer two sequential antigen home tests 48 hours apart (on days 6 and day 8). If both tests are negative, your child can return to school on day 9 and return to mask optional.
- Social distancing is no longer a required school protocol. Children will resume eating snack and lunch side by side unless Evanston's community COVID levels move to high or if there is a classroom COVID exposure. At these times children will practice social distancing at snack and in the lunch program.
- If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please notify the school by the morning of the absence.
- Parents and guardians will be notified by email, printed letter, and/or our automated notification service within 24 hours of any known exposure to COVID-19 in their classroom or extended day options. The identity of the individual will remain confidential.
- Windows will be opened when practical to allow for increased fresh air and air flow while inside.
- The preschool's air filtration system was updated with new air filters that allow for better filtration of airborne particles and other contaminants. Each room of the school is equipped with hospital grade Medify air purifiers.
- Children will wash their hands as much as possible, including moving between classrooms.

The Governor and DCFS highly recommend that everyone that is age eligible get vaccinated.

Thank you for your thorough reading and adherence to these protocols. We are committed to providing a safe, healthy, and fun environment for all the children. We look forward to working together so that your child can have a safe, educational, and fun experience at Cherry Preschool!