

COVID-19 policies and procedures 2022-2023

As of 8/31/2022

In-person programming is a shared communal responsibility; the behaviors of one can impact the entire school. The protocols around health screening and attendance used by Temple Israel's Early Childhood Learning Center are based on the guidance of medical professionals, requirements from the Department of Health and our experience over the past two years. School standards are modified as new information emerges to keep up with best practices for health and safety. We will continue to review throughout the year and will keep you updated of any changes.

Families are required to assess the health of their child(ren) each day. Regardless of the illness (COVID, fever, flu, bad cold, etc.), children who are unwell should not come to school.

As part of our ECLC shared value of community, it is expected that everyone's views and actions shall be treated in a respectful and understanding manner.

Vaccinations

As was communicated on 7/19/22, the ECLC is **strongly encouraging** families to vaccinate their children ages 0-5. We believe in science and believe strongly that that path back to "normal" includes vaccinations for our entire community.

However, at this time, we will not require the COVID vaccine for our ECLC and Parenting Center Students, though we reserve the right to change this policy at any time during the year.

As such, we are identifying 3 sets of students:

Children who are fully vaccinated: Meaning they are at least 2 weeks past their final COVID shot OR they have had a positive COVID diagnosis within the last 60 days (a dated test must be on file at the school)

Children who are partially vaccinated: Meaning that they are at least 2 weeks past their first shot, but have not completed the COVID series. This category requires that children continue on the appropriate vaccination trajectory.

Children who are not vaccinated: Meaning they have had no shot or it is less than 2 weeks past their first shot.

All visitors entering our building (including parents, caregivers, etc.) are required to be fully vaccinated and boosted. While we do ask for parents and caregivers to keep their vaccination records on file, our security guards may still ask to see proof of vaccination upon entry.

Masking

The ECLC will be mask optional for students this year.

If you would like your child to be masked during the school day, please communicate this to your teacher and to the ECLC Director. We will work to support this choice in the classroom. Families are responsible for providing ample properly fitting masks.

as of 8/31/2022

Classroom teachers will be mask optional; however at least 1 teacher per class will be masked during classroom hours to ensure that we can best support students who are masked. Visitors to classrooms - including staff, parents, service providers will be masked.

Testing Protocols

- Students who are fully vaccinated or partially vaccinated will NOT need to participate in surveillance testing; however they will need to test for exposure or onset of symptoms.
- Students who are not vaccinated must provide a PCR test taken w/in 48 hours of their first day of school, before returning from any extended break (Thanksgiving, Winter, Passover), and before returning after travel via airplane. They will also, of course, have to test for exposure or onset of symptoms.

Exposures

In the event of an exposure (not in the same household):

Any student or staff member who is exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID must inform the school by emailing Lisa at lsamick@templeisraelnyc.org.

- If your child is **fully vaccinated or partially vaccinated** (or has a documented positive test w/in the last 60 days), they do NOT need to quarantine as long as they meet the following criteria:
 - They are asymptomatic
 - They take 3 at home tests and receive negative results:
 - Test upon finding out about exposure
 - Test on day 2 following exposure (where exposure is day 0)
 - Test on day 5 following exposure (where exposure is day 0)
- If your child is **not vaccinated**, they will need to quarantine for 5 days following an exposure and submit a negative PCR test taken on day 5 or later to return to school on day 6. There is no test to stay policy for this group.

In the event of an exposure (in the same household):

If the positive person is able to completely isolate from the ECLC student, follow the protocols above.

If isolation is not possible:

- Children who are **vaccinated or partially vaccinated** can continue to come to school as long as they meet all of the following criteria:
 - They are completely asymptomatic
 - They remain masked while indoors at school
 - They follow the following test to stay protocol:
 - Test upon finding out about exposure (PCR or rapid)
 - Continue to rapid test every day until the positive person tests negative (or day 10 whichever comes first)
 - Continue to rapid test for 2 days after the positive person becomes negative.

- Children who are **unvaccinated** will need to quarantine and receive a negative PCR test 5 days after their last interaction with the positive individual, before returning to school. This means that the child must stay home while the person is testing positive (or day 10, whichever comes first) + 5 days before getting a PCR test to return to school.

In the event of a positive test:

Any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID must inform the school by emailing Lisa at lsamick@templeisraelnyc.org,

Regardless of vaccination status, children must isolate for five days after receiving a positive test and cannot return to school until all of the following criteria are met:

- They are asymptomatic or show a significant reduction in symptoms
- Fever free for at least 24-hours, without the aid of medication
- Have two negative rapid antigen tests, 24 hours apart, on day five or after.

If you choose not to follow this protocol, students can return to school on day 11 following a positive test.

Symptoms

Vaccinated or Partially Vaccinated with symptoms:

Vaccinated children (fully or partially) with symptoms will be sent home and allowed to return with a negative PCR test OR 2 negative antigen tests 24 hours apart, AND they are:

- Fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication
- Symptom free, show a significant reduction of symptoms **or** a medical professional has made an alternate diagnosis

Symptoms include:

- Fever (100° or higher), chills or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Cough (not due to other known cause)
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes)
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nausea or vomiting, when in combination with other symptoms
- Headache, when in combination with other symptoms

Unvaccinated with symptoms:

Unvaccinated children who demonstrate symptoms will be sent home and allowed to return with a negative PCR test AND they are:

- Fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication
- Symptom free, show a significant reduction of symptoms **or** a medical professional has made an alternate diagnosis

Students will need to wear a well fitting mask until symptoms are fully resolved.

Symptoms include:

- Fever (100° or higher), chills or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Cough (not due to other known cause)
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes)

Remote Learning:

- We will not be providing remote learning for students that must quarantine due to exposure.
- We will not be offering remote learning if our school is closed for inclement weather.
- For students that are home with a positive test, we do not believe that “zooming” into the classroom was productive over the past 2 years; however we recognize that maintaining connection with teachers and friends is important and that waiting for a negative rapid test could take up to 10 days. Therefore, teachers will be in touch with parents to arrange for zoom visits and/or calls while your child is out.

Coming into the School:

Bringing parents back into the school and into the classrooms is very important to us this year. We will be offering opportunities for parents to come in to:

- Celebrate birthdays
- Sign up to be the Shabbat parents
- Participate in Parent/Teacher conferences
- Sign up to be the Library reader.

In all of these cases, parents must have their vaccination card (including booster) on file and may be asked to wear a mask, depending on the current status in the school. Obviously, if a parent is feeling unwell, they should not come to school and we can reschedule your visit.