



COVID-19 Policies Starting May 31st, 2023

COVID-19 may be here to stay, and we have learned methods and obtained tools to decrease its impact on our health and well-being. Explorer Preschool's Teachers, COVID Team, and Board of Directors have updated our COVID-19 plans and policies for Summer Camp 2023 and the 2023-2024 school year with this in mind. This plan was created utilizing the current Santa Clara County, CA Dept of Health, CDC, and Community Care Licensing regulations. **It is subject to updates** throughout the year as federal, state, and local public health requirements and recommendations change; these updates may be captured in an addendum.

Explorer Preschool will continue to align with the [guidelines](#) of Santa Clara County for the 2023-2024 school year:

- **Vaccine:** We encourage all individuals 6 months and older to [get vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 and stay up to date with your COVID-19 boosters as recommended. It's the best, safest way to protect against severe illness, hospitalization and death.
- **Masks:** Masks, particularly [high-quality and well-fitting masks](#) (PDF), remain highly effective, inexpensive, and dynamic tools to protect oneself and mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. While masking will continue to be optional, Explorer welcomes and encourages our community members to continue mask wearing if that is their preference.
- **Absent:** Parents are required to fill-out the [Explorer Absence Form](#) when keeping a child at home from school for any reason. Staying home when sick is essential to keep communicable illnesses out of our program and prevent spread to others.
 - Per our Parent Handbook and Health and Safety Manual, teachers, in-class working parents and students must remain home if they exhibit any symptoms of a communicable illness. Licensing requires that all communicable illnesses, including but not limited to COVID-19, be reported immediately through the [Explorer Absence Form](#). Please refer to our [Parent Handbook](#) for a general list of common childhood illnesses.
 - Please do your part to keep our school community safe and healthy this year by erring on the side of caution and keeping your child home if they are experiencing symptoms of illness. Our community is built on a foundation of trust, and we all must trust and support that we have each other's health and safety at the forefront of our minds.
- **Positive COVID Test:** A person with a positive COVID test must stay home for 5 days (Day 0 being the start of symptoms or after the first positive test with no symptoms). They may leave

isolation after 5 days if symptoms are improving, and they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Individuals should wear a well-fitting mask through day 10; however masks may be removed after isolation ends and the person has taken two sequential negative tests one day apart.

- **Close Contacts:** In the event of a positive COVID-19 case in the class, Explorer Preschool will [follow the protocol](#) created by Santa Clara County Health Department and notify the potential close contacts. Asymptomatic and negative students and working parents may continue to attend class with recommended testing on Days 3-5 (individuals who have had COVID within the last 90 days do not need to test).
- **Cleaning:** In addition to Explorer's stringent cleaning policies after class, a professional cleaning service will be hired to disinfect and clean the school on a weekly basis.

Helpful Links

[2023-2024 School Calendar](#)

Explorer's [Absence Reporting](#)

[Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record](#)

[Vaccines for COVID-19 | CDC](#)

[CA Dept of Public Health: Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs](#) (Updated Oct, 2022)

[CDC: COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs](#) (Updated Oct, 2022)

[California Department of Public Health](#) (Updated Oct, 2022)

[County of Santa Clara Guidance](#)

[Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19 Contact Tracing](#) (Updated March 2023)