

## Winter 2024 COVID-19 Guidelines for the EMU Children's Institute

COVID continues to circulate locally. COVID cases and outbreaks are expected to be in schools and in the community. We will use the following guidance from the federal (CDC, FDA), state, local (Washtenaw County Health Department, WCHD) agencies, and EMU policies as well as guidance specific to K-12 and Early Childhood Education to help us avoid the worst impacts of COVID at the Children's Institute.

**Staying home while sick:** Children and staff who feel sick should stay home and away from others as much as possible. Regardless of vaccination status, you should isolate yourself from others when you have COVID-19. You should also isolate yourself if you are sick and suspect that you have COVID-19 but do not yet have test results. If your results are positive, follow the full isolation recommendations. If your results are negative, you can end your isolation.

When you have COVID-19, isolation is counted in days, as follows:

If you had not symptoms

- Day 0 is the day you were tested (not the day you received your positive test result)
  - Day 1 is the first full day following the day you were tested
- if you develop symptoms within 10 days of when you were tested, the clock restarts at day 0 on the day of symptom onset

If you had symptoms

- Day 0 of isolation is the day of symptom onset, regardless when you tested positive.
  - Day 1 is the first full day after the day your symptoms started

The CDC isolation and exposure calculator can help determine dates for isolation and masking. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>

For COVID cases:

**Children/Employees/EMU Students:** For COVID-19, We exclude children/Employees/EMU Students from the Children's Institute for 5 days after symptoms onset AND until symptoms have improved and the individual is fever-free for at least 24 hours. A children/Employees/EMU Students must wear masks for days 6-10 while at the EMU Children's Institute. A child less than 2 years of age or anyone who cannot wear a mask will need to be isolated from the Children's Institute for 10 days.

**Removing your Mask:** After you have ended isolation, when you are feeling better (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms improving),

- Wear your mask through day 10.

OR

- If you have access to antigen tests, you should consider using them. With two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart, you may remove your mask sooner than day 10.

Note: If your antigen test results are positive, you may still be infectious. You should continue wearing a mask and wait at least 48 hours apart until you have two sequential negative results. This may mean you need to continue wearing a mask and testing beyond day 10. If you submit a copy of the antigen test it needs to have a name and date on it.

**Masking:** For those who are able (e.g., excluding children under 2 and certain children with conditions that make it difficult to mask), masking is strongly recommended when:

- Days 6-10 after COVID-19 infection
- Child or staff is in a household or personal/social contact of a positive case.
- During outbreaks/clusters
- During periods of high hospital admission levels.

Choose a multilayer surgical, KN95 or N95 mask rather than a cloth mask.

Universal masking is strongly recommended when hospital admission levels are high. The EMU Children's Institute supports anyone who wants to mask for any reason even when levels are low or moderate.

The EMU Children's Institute may choose to implement universal indoor mask use to meet the needs of the families we serve, which could include people at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19. The administration can decide how to manage exposures based on the local context and benefits of preserving access to in-person learning.

**Vaccinations:** Stay up-to-date on all recommended COVID-19 and other vaccinations. We encourage vaccinations for all vaccine-preventable diseases

**Notification about cases:** There will be occasional cases of COVID-19 at the EMU Children's Institute. Notification is not required for individual positive cases if there is no outbreak. Individual classrooms will be notified when there is an outbreak/cluster. Further notification is not necessary if additional cases are identified as part of the outbreak/cluster.

### **Outbreak Guidance: EMU Children's Institute**

**10%-**If 10% of the classroom tests positive within a seven-day period (at least 2 cases), Washtenaw County Health Department ((WCHD) recommends home or medical provider-given rapid antigen testing at least three times after notification. Masking is recommended for those old enough to mask.

**20%**-If 20% of the group (classroom or the whole school) is sick within a seven-day period, this information will be reported to WCHD as an outbreak/cluster as soon as the school becomes aware this is an outbreak. We will continue making for ages 2+, especially indoors. We require at home or medical provider-given rapid antigen tests.

**30%**-If 30% of the classroom tests positive within a seven-day period, we will consider closing the classroom for three days and then require a home or medical provider-given rapid antigen test for two more days or close the classroom for five days.