

Children's Institute 2022/23 COVID-19 Protocols*

The Children's Institute (CI) continues to follow guidance from 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.

Below are key elements of our 2022/23 COVID-19 Protocols. Please keep in mind that as the pandemic changes, our policies may need to as well. If this happens, we will communicate changes with you.

REPORTING

Vaccine Reporting

Parents/Guardians will be required to provide information about their child(ren) vaccination status.

Rationale: A database of children's vaccination status, classroom and parent/guardians contact information will improve reaction time and help to ensure more appropriate individualized decisions around returning to the classroom.

Implementation: Parents/Guardians will log into the [Children's Institute Secure COVID-19 Vaccine Portal](#) and provide contact information, and COVID-19 vaccination information (whether they have or have not had the vaccine) for their child.



COVID 19 Vaccine Portal

Illness Reporting

When a child stays home or is sent home due to an illness, a parent/guardian informs/follows up with EMU Telehealth. We understand it can often be difficult to determine the seriousness of the situation when a child is not feeling well. Every situation is different, but we will use the following criteria to determine if a child needs to be excluded:

1. The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in our daily routine and activities.
2. The illness results in a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
3. A fever is accompanied by any of the symptoms or conditions previously listed.

Rationale: It is not our intent to allow children who are sick to stay in the program but it is also not our intent to exclude children who may have mild symptoms for a non-infectious reason. We are relying on parents/guardians to make good decisions regarding their child's health. The symptoms of COVID-19 are the same symptoms as most other viral illnesses. You cannot differentiate COVID-19 from other viral illnesses without testing. COVID-19 continues to be considered an infectious communicable disease with mandatory reporting and a period of isolation. The Nurse Practitioner's of EMU Telehealth will work with parents/guardians to determine if the child(ren) has COVID-19 or been exposed and what the next best steps are. If a child does not have COVID-19 and is ill, the CI illness policies will be enforced. EMU Telehealth is not becoming the agency for clearing all illnesses.

Implementation: If a child stays home ill or is sent home ill, the parent/guardian must complete the [Child Illness/Exposure Report Form](#). The Children's Institute will also follow our regular policy and file a Sick Child Form (if the child is sent home) and will reach out to Telehealth. The CI does not credit or swap out sick days.



Child Illness/Exposure Report Form

EMU Telehealth

EMU Telehealth is responsible for instructing members of the EMU Community about isolation/quarantine, and are available to answer questions about COVID-19.

Rationale: EMU Telehealth works collaboratively with the Dean of Students and in collaboration with the WCHD. The University's Telehealth Clinic manages cases of COVID-19, close contacts of COVID-19, and symptoms of COVID-19 for EMU.

Implementation: Once EMU Telehealth receives an illness report form for a child, the child will be added to Telehealth's call back queue. A nurse practitioner will attempt to contact the parent/guardian. If no one answers a voicemail may be left. If no phone number is provided or no one answers, an email will be sent asking the parent/guardian to call Telehealth. You DO NOT have to wait for Telehealth to call you. You may call Telehealth at any time after you submit the [Child Illness/Exposure Report Form](#). If your child(ren) is/are reported at the end of the day, you may not be contacted until the next day.

EMU Telehealth is open Monday-Friday 9-5pm

Phone: (734) 487-3865

Email: emu_telehealth@emich.edu

COVID-SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS

Face masks

Face masks are optional in the Children's Institute.

Rationale: This is consistent with current guidelines. Additionally, children need to see faces and we hope to not have to go back to masking. But we will adjust this policy if needed.

COVID-19 testing

Home tests will be accepted for CI employees, EMU students and children. To be accepted, the protocol described must be followed.

Implementation: To report a test, the employee, EMU student, parent/guardian will need to place the test on a piece of paper, write the person's name on the paper, and the date of the test. Take a picture of the test. Parents/guardians will need to email the image to emu_telehealth@emich.edu or attach it to your [Child Illness/Exposure Report Form](#). Employees and EMU students in communication with EMU Telehealth may need to share their results via email, but must upload their results to the [EMU COVID Vaccine Certification and Testing Portal](#).



Child Illness/Exposure Report Form



EMU COVID 19 Vaccine Certification and Testing Portal

What if an employee, EMU student or child has COVID-19?

The COVID-19 isolation period is 10 days. For a portion of this period, the infected person must stay home and "isolate" from others. When a person is permitted to return before the end of the 10-day period, they are considered to be in "Modified-Isolation" for the remainder of the 10-day period. If fever or symptoms return or worsen they should resume isolation. On day 10, the person will receive a formal release from the Dean of Students

Employees/EMU Students: COVID-19 positive employees/EMU students must isolate 5 days, test days 5 and 6. Employees/EMU Students may return on day 6 wearing a mask at all times and also test again on day 6. If both tests are negative, symptoms are significantly improved, and they are fever free for 24 hours without medication to reduce the fever, they may return without a mask on day 6 or 7.

Children: COVID-19 positive children must isolate for 6 days, test on days 5 and 6. They may return without a mask on day 6 or 7 if both tests are negative and symptoms are significantly improved and they are fever free for 24 hours without medication to reduce the fever.

What if an employee or child had a close contact with someone with COVID-19?

The COVID-19 quarantine period is 10 days. When a person is permitted to return before the end of the 10-day period, they are considered to be in "Modified-Quarantine" for the remainder of the 10-day period. If fever or symptoms begin they should resume quarantine. On day 10, the person will receive a formal release from the Dean of Students

Employees/EMU Students: Employees/EMU students who are close contacts of someone COVID-19 positive must self-monitor for 10 days and mask at all times for 10 days. Employees/EMU students may stop masking once they have 2 consecutive negative COVID-19 tests 24-48 hours apart beginning no sooner than day 2 and are symptom free.

Children: Parents of children who have a close contact at school will be notified of the potential exposure via email. Children confirmed to have had a high-risk close contact with someone COVID-19 positive must be monitored by parents for 10 days. Children should stay home for 72 hours and be tested for COVID-19 on days 2 and 3. They may return on day 3 or 4 as long as they have 2 consecutive negative COVID-19 tests 24-48 hours apart beginning no sooner than day 2 and are symptom free.

What if an employee/EMU student or child has symptoms of COVID-19 but you are not sure if it is?

Employees/EMU students and Children: Employees/EMU students and children who are experiencing viral symptoms should stay home and test on consecutive days (minimally 2), if both tests are negative, there has been no known exposure and symptoms are improving or resolved they may return without a mask.

Rationale: The symptoms of COVID-19 include: fatigue, body aches, headaches, fever, nasal congestion or runny nose, change in taste or smell, sore throat, cough, chest congestion, difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, or a combination of these symptoms. Anyone experiencing a severe symptom or multiple symptoms (a cluster of symptoms) should stay home or be sent home if they are at the CI.

Implementation: If an employee, EMU Student or child is exposed to or has symptoms of COVID-19 a report form must be submitted to Telehealth. Employees/EMU students should report themselves via the University [COVID Report Form](#) and clearly indicate that they are with the CI. Parents/guardians must inform the school of the exposure or symptoms and complete the [Child Illness/Exposure Report Form](#). EMU Telehealth will follow up with all, usually within 24 hours (Monday-Friday). EMU Telehealth will ask additional questions to determine next steps. A home COVID-19 test should also be done. In general, persons who have multiple symptoms of COVID-19 or a clinical scenario suggestive of COVID-19, will need to test negative twice, 24-48 hours apart to return to school. At the time of return, their symptoms should be improving and they must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication.



COVID 19 Report Form for Employees/ EMU Students



Child Illness/Exposure Report Form

Outbreak guidance for preschools and childcare

- **10%:** If 10% of the classroom tests positive within a seven-day period (at least 2 cases), WCHD recommends testing at least *three* times after notification. Masking is recommended for those old enough to mask.
- **20%:** If 20% of a group or more (classroom or the whole school) is sick within a seven-day period, an outbreak/cluster report will be filed with WCHD as soon as the school becomes aware that this is an outbreak. Continue or begin masking if not already masked, continue or begin testing (at least *three* times after notification).
- **30%:** If 30% of the classroom tests positive within a seven-day period, the classroom may be closed or exposed children told to stay home for three days and then to test for two more days (or, alternatively, close the classroom for five days).

Testing recommendations and resources:

When using rapid tests, the FDA [recommends](#) repeat testing following a negative result whether or not you have COVID-19 symptoms.

Outbreak/cluster testing recommendations:

- WCHD recommends serial testing at least three times after notification. If additional cases are identified and the date of last exposure is more recent, the testing period should be extended.
- Where to get at-home rapid tests: *(Please share with your families)*
 - Order your tests at www.covidtests.gov or call 1-800-232-0233 for help in 150 languages. *Does not require any payment or insurance information.*
 - [Public libraries](#): Households are eligible to receive up to 5 free at-home test kits from participating libraries, while supplies last. *Does not require any payment or insurance information.*
 - Every household in Michigan can request free at-home tests through Project ACT. Order online at <https://accesscovidtests.org> Residents can request tests once per month in August and September. Households will receive one kit each month containing five tests. *Does not require any payment or insurance information.*
 - If you have health insurance, most plans will cover the cost of over-the-counter, at-home tests (up to 8 at-home tests per month for each person on your plan). [Medicaid beneficiaries](#) can also now get free over-the-counter at-home tests. Please check with your pharmacy or contact your insurance provider for more information.