

Secret Forest Families,

As the number of COVID cases in our region keep climbing I wanted to clearly communicate with you Secret Forest Playschool's COVID procedures and expectations. I have continued to review these regularly as I want to do everything I can to keep your children (and families) safe and healthy as well as keep Secret Forest open. What we have been doing has been working so I am not making any changes to loosen restrictions at this time.

As you review this document please keep in mind:

- Although some of your children are now fully vaccinated there are many children who are not eligible to get vaccinated (due to their age)
- During our day together, at minimum, everyone eats (snacks 15-20mins x 2/day and lunch 30-45mins/day) and they sleep in a common area- unfortunately masking wouldn't/doesn't eliminate these exposure times

COVID procedures and expectations updated 1/17/22:

- ❖ **Adults must wear masks anytime they are in the Cabin.**
- ❖ Limit one family in the entryway at a time.
- ❖ I will be taking your child's temperature upon entry to the classroom.
- ❖ Children will wash their hands before they join in play in the morning and throughout the day.
- ❖ I will keep as much fresh air moving as possible in the Cabin (windows cracked open and fans on).
- ❖ I will do everything I can to limit transmission but I cannot eliminate it! Coming to Secret Forest does hold a risk as parents are working outside the home and we have older and younger siblings of those that are enrolled that are attending school and daycare.

*There are currently two children enrolled that are deaf/hard of hearing and communicate using sign language, a visual language in which facial expression is vital, so at this time I will not be wearing my mask inside (I received my booster on 11/9/21 and continue to mask indoors in public to reduce my risk of exposure). When I have a cold but have tested negative for COVID you will see me wearing a mask while indoors.

CHILDCARE IS UNDER STRICTER REQUIREMENTS FROM THE MDH AND AT THIS TIME OUR POLICIES AND DECISION TREE HAVE NOT CHANGED WITH THE RECENT CDC SHORTENED (5 DAY) QUARANTINE.

I will be following the Decision Tree that has been provided to me by the Minnesota Department of Health to help me determine when a child should/shouldn't attend:
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>).

If your child or member of your household has 1 common symptom or 2 less common symptoms your child should not attend until a health care provider has helped to confirm a diagnosis of COVID-19, establish an alternate diagnosis, or to determine the need for COVID-19 testing.

- ❖ 1 more common symptom: fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; and new loss of taste or smell.
- ❖ 2 Less common symptoms: sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; and new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose.

***If anyone in your household has a pending COVID test due to symptoms your child should NOT attend until after you have received their negative results.**

Close contact policies:

Your child is considered a close contact if they spent a total of 15 mins in a 24hr period within 6ft of a person who showed symptoms and/or tested positive for COVID (up to 48hrs prior)

- ❖ **If your child is a close contact (regardless of their vaccine status or confirmed COVID positive within 90-days) you have the choice of either a 10 day quarantine WITH a negative PCR test or a 14 day quarantine without testing.**

- If your child has a negative PCR they may return after they have completed 10 days of quarantine on day 11 or on Day 15 if you have chosen not to test them and they have been symptom free.
- CDC recommends all close contacts (regardless of their vaccine status or confirmed COVID positive within 90-days) take precautions and watch for symptoms and “Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.”.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

- The children at Secret Forest eat and sleep in the same common space so wearing a well-fitted mask around others while inside is not always possible, thus the reason why ALL close contacts (regardless of their vaccine status or confirmed COVID positive within 90-days) must wait to return until Day 11

***Day 0 is considered the day symptoms develop, the day an asymptomatic person gets a positive or the day of their last exposure to the person that tested positive**

Other considerations to make:

- ❖ If your child travels by air they will need to remain out of care for 7 days after you return while you monitor them for symptoms (and you are encouraged to have them tested if you visited an area with high transmission rates).

***If your child is fully vaccinated then they may attend as enrolled upon your return as long as they were not a known close contact nor exhibit any symptoms.**