

Episcopal Diocese of NC
 Children, Youth, and Schools COVID and Community
 Health Risk Guidelines
 August 26, 2022

COVID-19 vaccines are now available and recommended for people 6 months and older.

The most effective way for individuals to protect themselves and their loved ones from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated and stay up-to-date with booster doses and additional doses. Evidence shows that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at preventing COVID-19, including severe illness and death.

To determine eligibility for additional doses and booster shots, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>.

We recognize that the preschools, children’s programs, and youth programs in our Diocese serve a wide variety of needs. Some programs may adopt stricter safety procedures, especially those programs that offer supplemental or part-time care. The following guidelines are considered minimums and best practices to be used by all.

BEST PRACTICES

We consider the list below to be the best practices that every program should use, regardless of the level of community spread of COVID-19 or any other respiratory illness.

- Please refer to the [CDC](#) and [NC DHHS Childcare Strong Toolkit](#)
- Check ventilation systems to ensure that air conditioning systems are working, and have clean filters.
- Install a 4-inch to 6-inch thick HEPA filter with a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) rating of 11 to 13 to improve air quality without impeding airflow through a non-HEPA system.
- Stay informed about COVID and other health risk indicators
 - [Access your County’s COVID-19 Community Level through the CDC](#)
 - [Use helpful information on the NC DHHS Dashboard](#)
 - [Wastewater Monitoring](#)
 - [Air Quality Index](#)

The following protocols are strongly recommended but not required.

COVID-19 Community Level	Schools/Preschools	Congregational Children’s Programming	Youth Ministry
Low	MASKING Optional, but recommended for those who are unvaccinated		

	<p>HAND WASHING Encourage handwashing and the use of sanitizer</p> <p>COHORTS and VISITORS No restrictions on visitors</p> <p>DROP-OFF/PICK-UP Children and youth are allowed to interact without restriction No restrictions for drop-off and pick-up times</p>					
<p>COVID-19 Community Level</p>	<p>Schools and Preschools</p>	<p>Congregational Children’s Programming</p>	<p>Youth Ministry</p>			
<p>Medium</p> <p>The following protocols are strongly recommended but not required.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="493 684 821 1887"> <p>MASKING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoors for all 2 years & older - see masking exemptions on p 5 of the NC DHHS Toolkit Outdoors when in close proximity Consider masks with clear panels or face shields for teachers during circle time <p>HAND WASHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage regular hand washing and sanitizer <p>COHORTS AND VISITORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit interaction between classes Limit shared materials Limit guests, visitors, parents & others <p>DROP-OFF/PICK-UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stagger drop-off/pick-up to ensure physical distancing </td> <td data-bbox="821 684 1154 1887"> <p>MASKING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoors for all 2 years & older Not required outdoors while physical distancing Outdoors when in close proximity <p>HAND WASHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage regular hand washing and sanitizer <p>COHORTS AND VISITORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit interaction between classes Limit shared materials Limit guests, visitors, parents & others <p>DROP-OFF/PICK-UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stagger drop-off/pick-up to ensure physical distancing Include Community Covenants with daily home screening for COVID-19 & other </td> <td data-bbox="1154 684 1471 1887"></td> </tr> </table>			<p>MASKING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoors for all 2 years & older - see masking exemptions on p 5 of the NC DHHS Toolkit Outdoors when in close proximity Consider masks with clear panels or face shields for teachers during circle time <p>HAND WASHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage regular hand washing and sanitizer <p>COHORTS AND VISITORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit interaction between classes Limit shared materials Limit guests, visitors, parents & others <p>DROP-OFF/PICK-UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stagger drop-off/pick-up to ensure physical distancing 	<p>MASKING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoors for all 2 years & older Not required outdoors while physical distancing Outdoors when in close proximity <p>HAND WASHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage regular hand washing and sanitizer <p>COHORTS AND VISITORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit interaction between classes Limit shared materials Limit guests, visitors, parents & others <p>DROP-OFF/PICK-UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stagger drop-off/pick-up to ensure physical distancing Include Community Covenants with daily home screening for COVID-19 & other 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Include Community Covenants with daily home screening for COVID-19 & other infectious diseases <p>CLEANING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remove toys and other items that are difficult to sanitize ● Sensory toys are allowable, consider how often they are cleaned or switched out <p>ADDITIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open windows/doors if possible when not dangerous for children ● Food servers must wear a CFC and gloves 	<p>infectious diseases</p> <p>CLEANING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sanitize spaces and high touch areas after each use ● Remove toys and other items that are difficult to sanitize ● Sensory toys are allowable, consider how often they are cleaned or switched out <p>ADDITIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open windows/doors if possible when not dangerous for children ● Food servers must wear a CFC and gloves
<p>High</p> <p>The following protocols are strongly recommended but not required.</p>	<p>MASKING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indoors for all 2 years & older <p>HAND WASHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Everyone must wash their hands at the beginning of the school day ● Plan regular hand washing and sanitizer throughout the day <p>COHORTS AND VISITORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain classroom cohorts with no interaction between groups ● Keep a listing of all persons who participate with the 	<p>MASKING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indoors for all 2 years & older <p>HAND WASHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Everyone must wash their hands when dropped off or prior to beginning an activity ● Allow for regular hand washing and sanitizer throughout the program or event <p>COHORTS AND VISITORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain classroom cohorts with no interaction between groups ● Keep a listing of all persons who participate with the group for contact tracing ● Limited access for guests, visitors, parents & others ● Indoor spaces should allow for physical distancing of 6 feet

	<p>group for contact tracing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limit classroom access for guests, visitors, parents & others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use of outdoor space as is possible ● Include hybrid options for families ● Overnight events are discouraged
	<p>DROP-OFF/PICK-UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schools may choose to have a staff person conduct health screenings for each child before they enter ● Stagger drop-off/pick-up to ensure physical distancing ● Include Community Covenants with daily home screening for COVID-19 & other infectious diseases 	<p>DROP-OFF/PICK-UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You may choose to have someone conduct health screenings for each child before they enter ● Stagger drop-off/pick-up times or have children and youth enter through different entry points to ensure physical distancing ● Ask families to do at-home screening for COVID-19 & other infectious diseases
	<p>CLEANING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All toys, surfaces, door handles, etc. must be frequently sanitized ● All surfaces should be sanitized after use 	<p>CLEANING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All toys, surfaces, door handles, etc. must be frequently sanitized ● All surfaces should be sanitized after use
	<p>ADDITIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdoor spaces should be utilized as frequently as possible ● It is recommended that when food is served it be handled by a minimum number of people who are masked and wear gloves ● Children should be 	<p>ADDITIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdoor spaces should be utilized as frequently as possible ● It is recommended that when food is served it be handled by a minimum number of people who are masked and wear gloves

physically
distanced while
eating

VACCINATION

- You may choose to require proof of vaccination or ask employees to undergo weekly COVID testing
- The PCR test is the standard
- Weekly testing on Wed/Thurs is ideal
- At home testing will be accepted as the weekly test