

Does my child need to wear a mask?

*Masks are optional and no longer required for children, staff, parents/caregivers, or family members. Although **Masks are no longer required**, there will be situations when the use of well-fitting masks may be temporarily required for individuals:*

- *Days 6-10 when a student, child, or staff returns from isolation after 5 days due to a positive covid test*
- *Days 1-10 if one has a Covid exposure*
- *During clusters and/or outbreaks in groups of students*
- *Any other illness*
- *Prospective families or other visitors*

Children and staff will have the choice to wear a mask at school with the expectation that others' choices will be respected. Parents may inform the school if they wish their child to continue wearing a mask at school.

Will teachers be required to wear masks?

No. Teachers now have the option to wear a mask.

Are FCS staff vaccinated?

As of August 15, 2021, 100% of FCS staff are fully vaccinated. Being vaccinated is a condition for employment at FCS. The only exemption would be for medical reasons.

What happens if a child becomes ill at school?

*If a child becomes ill at school and presents with **only one of the following symptoms**, their teacher will isolate the child until the parent is able to pick up their child:*

- Headache
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose (except clear or white runny nose)
- Nausea or vomiting (2 or more in 24 hours)
- Diarrhea (2 or more loose stool in 24 hours)

Parents must be ready to immediately answer their phones and come to school if their child is sick. The isolation area will not be entered until 24 hours after the child leaves, and at this time, staff will thoroughly clean the area in line with cleaning protocols issued by the CDC and King County Health Department.

The child may return to school 24 hours after symptoms are gone without having to be tested for COVID-19 if they:

- 1. have not had a fever*
- 2. have no known exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case AND*
- 3. have only one of the symptoms that begins and resolves within a 24-hour period.*

Assuming there is a resurgence in the virus, what metrics will the school use to decide when or if to close the school? Will the school follow Seattle Public Schools protocol, as in the past?

FCS will follow WA State Department of Health recommendations for preschools and childcare centers. FCS monitors the mandates and guidelines from the Governor and the Department of Health in regard to safety protocols.

Does the school have a response plan in place if a member of the school community tests positive for COVID?

Yes. The member of the school community will immediately notify School Administration of a confirmed COVID-19 case. FCS will then notify families of the confirmed COVID-19 infection at the school. FCS will also notify the teachers and the families of the children who had a possible contact with the individual testing positive for COVID-19. The individual testing positive will isolate for a 5-day period, then return only once their symptoms have improved and they are without fever for the past 48 hours without use of fever-reducing medications. After returning to school, the individual must wear a well-fitted mask during the remaining days of their isolation period, days 6-10.

Children and teachers exposed to the individual, whether vaccinated or not, will:

- *Monitor for symptoms, AND*
- *Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days after the last date of exposure, AND*
- *Get tested 5 days after their last exposure. Molecular (PCR/NAAT), antigen, and at home tests are acceptable. If they test positive, they must isolate.*
- *Exposed students, children, and staff may continue to take part in all in-person instruction and care as long as they are not symptomatic.*

If there is a potential Covid case due to fever and other symptoms, we will follow the guidelines noted above.

How are entrance and exits managed to limit points of contact?

During the first 15 minutes of the group's drop off time, families line up outside of school and social distance until it is their turn to drop off their child. A group teacher receives your child at the front gate of the school in accordance with the drop-off policy. Parents will use their smartphone to check in their child via the Curacubby Kiosk. Parents will also answer all the questions on the Wellness Checklist including whether they took their child's temperature that morning.

Any family requiring drop off times outside of the 15-minute window must text both their group teachers. The same process occurs at pick up which begins 15 minutes before the end of their child's program. Parents must wait outside, socially distanced, and wait for the group teacher to bring out their child. Once again, the parents will use their smartphone to check out their child. Any family requiring an earlier pick up time must text their child's teachers. If they do not get a response from the teacher, they may call the school.

What are the cleaning protocols for the school?

All items (i.e., dress up clothes, plush toys, etc.) which cannot be easily cleaned are packed away in storage. Tables are sanitized before and after each use. In addition, staff routinely cleans high contact areas throughout the day. Each day, after school has finished, staff deep clean the school in preparation for the next day.

How are the programs organized?

FCS has two groups in the morning program and one group in the afternoon program. Children are assigned to the morning groups based on the requested drop off and pick up time in coordination with their requested days. FCS has always had multi-aged groupings and will continue this practice.

Will the groups have the same teachers over the course of the whole program?

Yes. Groups will have the same teachers throughout the course of the school year program. The one exception to this is during the summer program when teachers take time off for vacation.

Will the group have the same play space for the whole program?

Our groups rotate their gathering play space every week. Beginning June 2022, the groups will share the play yard except during meals, toileting, specific arts/crafts projects, and circle time.

How will the yard be broken up for the groups?

Currently, the morning program groups are in two spaces: the front yard and the back yard and the groups rotate their play space every week. Each group has two teachers, the same teachers for the duration of the program and school year. There is also one additional teacher who will safely "float" between groups, as needed.

Starting June 2022, the morning program groups will share the play yard with the exception of arrival/departure, meals, toileting, specific arts/crafts projects, and circle time. During free play time the children will share the entire play yard.

For the afternoon program, there is one group. The afternoon program has two teachers, the same teachers for the duration of the program and school year.

Families will have the contact information for their teachers. All children will be outside the entire day throughout the program. The only exception to this is in the event of extreme weather that may bring us inside for a short period of time.

What if my child has a hard time at drop off?

If a child is having a difficult time during drop off, we recommend the parent/guardian take their child on a calming walk around the block and then return for check in. After the walk, the parent gives their child a quick hug and goodbye. The more prolonged a parent makes the departure, the harder it is for the child. The teacher will receive the child and typically, the child calms down once they are inside the play yard.

Will teachers be able to comfort my child if they are having a difficult time or if they are hurt?

YES! We will not let any child in need of comfort and support go without the proper care and attention of a teacher.

What will lunchtime look like?

*Lunchtime takes place outdoors. Students and teachers sit at tables, at least 4' feet apart with children facing away from one another. Students must bring lunch from home, preferably in a lunchbox they can open without assistance, with enough food for both lunch and snack. A note will be sent home if your child needs more food. **FCS will not provide food.** We are not able to refrigerate or heat up anything for students on site. One good idea is to freeze a small plastic bottle of water, or juice, and put it in the children's lunchbox to keep things cool, and the children will enjoy the drink! Please have your child practice opening and closing their lunchbox at home.*

What will be done in the case of rain? High winds? Smoke?

Students wear or bring their own rain gear to school. Please teach your child to put on their rain gear by themselves. Teachers will give assistance to younger children who struggle with this. The school offers a raingear loaner program for parents upon request.

Due to Covid-19 we are unable to remain indoors if weather or air quality prevents children from being outside. In the case of prolonged high winds or lightning, students will be brought inside by the group teachers through separate group entrances and play in their section of the school until parents are able to pick them up. School will be canceled if there is a smoke day with an Air Quality Index of 100 or higher.

Are the teachers complying with COVID recommendations and restrictions?

100% of our staff are vaccinated. Teachers care about the health and safety of all members of the community. The expectations we have for our families apply to our teachers as well. Just as families are required to respect social distancing protocols, so will teachers. We request that teachers practice social distancing, respect indoor/outdoor gathering rules, wash hands, and wear masks whenever they enter public spaces which require it.

How will we know families and teachers are complying with COVID recommendations and restrictions?

Trust! We trust you, just as you trust us, to keep your best interests in mind when you make decisions that could put the community at risk. We will not police your actions. We are asking that you and staff be respectful of this new reality by practicing social distancing, respecting indoor/outdoor gathering rules, washing your hands, and wearing a mask when required. We also verify the vaccination status of all employees to ensure compliance with CDC guidelines and WA State's Department of Labor and Industries requirements.

Will I be refunded if I decide to not send my child after signing the contract?

*For the 2021-22 school year, families have until the 15th of each month to submit a request to withdraw their student from school **at the end of the month** without penalty. Parents giving notice after the 15th of the month may be charged for the next month's tuition installment payment.*

For those who wish to enroll later in the academic year, will there be a space for their child?

FCS cannot guarantee a space for children whose parents wish to delay enrollment until later in the year. The only way to guarantee a spot for one's child is to pay a deposit (if applicable) and the tuition installments during the months a child is not attending.

For the academic school year deposit, if the State decides to close preschools sometime during the academic year, would the families get the deposit back?

FCS will determine the status of deposits at the end of the school year. Consideration of the refund will take into account how long the school was closed. Deposits are not applicable to those students on Mid-Year contracts.

Is the school considering a scenario where children of essential workers could continue to attend, but other families would be asked not to return and forfeit their deposit?

If the Governor and the Department of Health mandate closure of preschools and childcare centers EXCEPT for the children of essential workers, FCS will continue to provide care for essential workers. For families who do not meet the criteria for essential workers, the deposit is held until the end of the year for a determination of refund based upon the length of the closure of the school. This policy is outlined in the Addendum to the Tuition Contract regarding COVID Expectations.

Can we ease travel restrictions now that people are getting vaccinated?

As of January 27, 2022, the CDC recommends:

- *Delay travel until you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.*
- *Get tested before you travel.*
- *Wear a mask over your nose and mouth in indoor areas of public transportation (including on airplanes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation) traveling into, within, or out of the United States and indoors in U.S. transportation hubs (including airports and stations).*
- *Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.*

If you are NOT Up to Date with your COVID-19 Vaccines

- *Self-quarantine and get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after returning from travel.*
- *Stay home and self-quarantine for a full 5 days after travel.*

What if we travel outside of Washington State?

CDC recommends delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated adults do not need to be tested nor quarantined upon return from out of state travel. The only exception to this is if a vaccinated person has a known exposure to COVID.

If you are traveling with children who cannot get vaccinated at this time, follow recommendations for unvaccinated people outlined above.

What about social gatherings?

We trust that all families (vaccinated and unvaccinated) will be respectful of this new reality by practicing social distancing, respecting indoor/outdoor gathering rules, washing your hands, and wearing a mask when required.