



Hartley Nature Preschool Fall 2022 COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

Updated 9/2/2022

Our primary goal is to maximize the number of days children are present at preschool while following public health recommendations to keep children and staff safe and to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our community. COVID policies will be updated throughout the year as COVID rates change and CDC/MDH guidance is updated.

Throughout the pandemic, the partnership between Hartley preschool teachers and families has been a bright spot in all the challenges. We are deeply grateful for your support as well as your cooperation and open, honest communication.

If you have any questions about exposures, symptoms, testing, or HNC COVID policies please email preschool director Kaitlin Erpestad at psdirector@hartleynature.org or call Hartley at 218-724-6735. Please note that calls and emails received at the end of or outside of business hours will be answered as soon as possible on the next business day; your call or email will not be answered before morning drop off on the next business day.

Testing and Symptoms

Key times to get tested:

- If your child has [symptoms](#), test immediately.
- If your child was exposed to COVID-19 and does not have symptoms, wait at least 5 full days after the exposure before testing. If you test too early, you may be more likely to get an inaccurate result
- If you choose to use antigen tests you may be asked to administer multiple tests over several days before your child may return to preschool. You may consider using a PCR tests to avoid having to take multiple tests.

Please see the [guidance from the CDC](#) below:

I am in a circumstance where I should get tested and:



I have not had COVID-19 or I have not had a positive test within the past 90 days.

You may choose NAAT or antigen tests.

If you use an antigen test and your result is negative, multiple tests may be necessary.



I tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

My first positive test result was within:

30 days or less

I have symptoms

Use antigen tests. If negative, multiple tests may be necessary.

I do not have symptoms

Testing is not recommended to detect a new infection.

My first positive test result was within:

31-90 days

I have symptoms

Use antigen tests. If negative, multiple tests may be necessary.

I do not have symptoms

Use antigen tests. If negative, multiple tests may be necessary

- A child who has symptoms may attend preschool if the child tests negative for COVID, is well enough to participate in all activities, and meets all sick policies.
 - General sick policies for fever, diarrhea, vomiting, and other common childhood illnesses can be found in the Parent Handbook.
- It is the family's responsibility to tell a teacher about symptoms and test results at or before drop off. If a teacher notices symptoms that were not reported, you can expect a call that may result in you needing to return to preschool to pick up or test your child for COVID.
- If you use antigen tests, multiple tests may be necessary, especially if symptoms worsen or additional symptoms develop. See above.
- Just like before the Covid-19 pandemic, there may be times when HNC staff determine your child to be too sick to participate in preschool and will ask for them to be picked up.

Testing Resources

- At this time we have antigen test kits available for you to have free-of-cost from the State of MN. Each family will get a test kit to have at home in case your child needs a test. We will offer these tests when you need them until we run out.
- Free, no cost antigen and PCR tests are available at the [DECC Community Testing Site](#)
- [Find COVID testing locations](#). Searchable by zip code, type of test, type of facility.

Covid-19 Exposures

- If your child is exposed to COVID-19 follow [CDC guidance](#).
- If your child is exposed to Covid-19 at preschool, you will receive an email notifying you that they have been identified as a close contact within 24 hours of HNP being notified (exclusive of weekends and holidays).

Quarantine

- **Quarantine following an exposure to COVID-19 is no longer recommended by the CDC.** You are welcome to choose to quarantine following an exposure.

Household Exposure

- If a child is exposed to a household member with COVID that they cannot separate from, the child may continue to attend preschool as long as they are completely symptom free *and* are tested every 2 days through day 10.
 - If the child develops any one or more symptoms, they may not attend preschool until they have 2 negative antigen tests taken at least 48 hours apart or a negative PCR test. The test(s) must be taken after symptoms develop.
 - A child who tests positive should follow the isolation guidance.
- A child who is able to separate from a household member with COVID may follow general CDC guidance for exposures.

Testing Positive (Isolation)

- A child who tests positive should stay home for 10 days. Return on day 11.
 - If you have access to antigen tests, you may consider using them. The child may return to preschool sooner than day 11 if they have two sequential negative tests taken 48 hours apart with the first test taken no earlier than day 6.
 - Send a screenshot or photo of each negative test result to Kaitlin at psdirector@hartleynature.org *and* to your child's teachers.

- HNP is required by child care licensing regulations to report any positive cases of Covid-19 in our programming; notify HNP of any positive results ASAP by calling 218-724-6735 or emailing psdirector@hartleynature.org
- See [CDC isolation guidance](#).

Masking Policy

- HNC is a mask-friendly environment; children and families are welcome to wear masks at any time, but masks are not currently required for children and families.
- Children cannot wear masks while eating or napping.
- Please let us know if you would like us to support your child in wearing a mask and be sure to send at least two masks with your child.
- Staff are welcome to wear masks at any time. Staff are required to mask indoors when the [community level](#) is high.

Vaccination Policies

- As of mid-June, children ages 6 months to five years are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines. Learn more [here](#).
- If your child is vaccinated for COVID-19, provide a copy of their vaccine card to Kaitlin for their file.
- At this time the COVID-19 vaccine is not required by the state of MN for children to attend child care.
- Vaccination status, like other medical information, is private data. We are not able to share another person's vaccination status.

Ventilation

- We spend as much time as possible each day outdoors in the fresh air.
- The HNC ventilation system brings fresh air into the building as long as the weather allows. We also open doors and windows whenever possible, turn on fans, and use portable HEPA filters.
- Thank you to [Lake Superior Dental](#) for the generous donation of the classroom HEPA filters.

Handwashing and Sanitizing:

- Children wash or sanitize hands before and after eating and after going to the bathroom.
- Eating surfaces are sanitized before and after snacks and meals.
- High touch surfaces are sanitized frequently.
- Bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected at least once daily and as needed.

Financial Policies

- HNP will not issue refunds or credits for COVID related absences or closures. Regular tuition payments are due regardless of days missed due to illness.
- The May 2023 deposit will remain non-refundable regardless of a child's attendance.
- You may choose to keep your child home at any point and continue paying tuition to hold their spot. We will continue to require 30 days written notification of permanent withdrawal from HNP and payment is due for those 30 days.
- We understand that COVID-19 has negatively impacted many family's financial situations and we welcome individual families to reach out about financial policies at any time.

Please reach out with any questions about COVID policies. You can call Hartley at 218-724-6735 or email Kaitlin at psdirector@hartleynature.org. We are looking forward to a safe and healthy preschool year of learning, play, and exploration in Hartley Park!