



# Soapstone Preschool 2022-23 COVID Policies

**\*Soapstone Preschool will follow all current guidelines from North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services (ChildCare Strong NC Public Health Toolkit) in regards in COVID-19.\***

## Summary of Current NCDHHS Policies

### **SYMPTOMS/EXCLUSIONS FROM PRESCHOOL**

If your child or someone in your household is experiencing any of the following below, please keep your child home from school. We will also call you to pick your child up from school if these symptoms develop during the school day.

- Fever (100.4 °F or greater) or Chills
- New cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion, persistent or discolored runny nose, headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle/Body Aches
- Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea

**Children or staff who experience any of the above symptoms may return to preschool only with the following:**

- A negative COVID-19 test or a doctor's note **AND**
  - Be fever-free for at least 24 hours (without medication)
  - Have symptoms improving for at least 24 hours

### **POSITIVE CASES/EXPOSURES**

#### **Important Points:**

- Timeline of Days Definitions:
  - a. Exposure: The last date of exposure is Day 0.
  - b. Positive Cases: Day of symptom onset is Day 0, or, if asymptomatic, Day 0 is the date of the positive test.
- Soapstone Preschool accepts negative results from a PCR test and antigen tests (at-home testing kits) to return to school.

#### **Positive Cases:**

If a child/staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they may return to school when:

- a. They have completed their **5-Day isolation**. The 5-Day timeline starts the day of the first symptoms or the date of the positive test (Day 0).
- b. It has been at least 24-hours without a fever (without medication).
- c. Other symptoms should be improving.

*Child/Staff **must** wear a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days upon return to school.*

### Exposures:

If a child/staff has been exposed to someone with a known case of COVID-19 (including preschool), the child/staff may return to school unless symptoms develop. In addition:

- a. Child/staff **must** wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days post-exposure.
- b. Child/staff should test on Day 5 post-exposure unless they have had COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

If exposed child/staff develops symptoms, they **must** stay home from school and get tested immediately.

### Classroom Closures

If a classroom has been exposed to COVID, the classroom will remain open as long as 4 or more children and the teachers remain healthy.

## COMMUNICATION

If your child will miss preschool (for any reason), please message your teacher and/or Ms. Jess in Procure or via email. This allows Ms. Jess to communicate your return-to-school plan (if needed) as quickly as possible. If your child becomes sick with COVID-related symptoms at school, we will call you immediately for pick-up. **It is ESSENTIAL that we can reach you, or your emergency contacts, during the preschool hours.**

## NON-COVID-RELATED HEALTH POLICY INFORMATION

*Medical history and current immunization record must be on file before any child may attend preschool. **Children with food allergies must have a separate Food Allergy Action Plan on file.***

In addition to COVID, Soapstone Preschool has adopted the following “Recommendations from the Committee on Control of Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics” as our general guidelines for sickness. A child **will not be allowed to attend preschool** when any of the following exist:

- **FEVER:** If you child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, children may not return to school until they are 24-hours fever-free WITHOUT fever-reducing medication.
- **RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS:** (cough, runny nose, sore throat), accompanied by fever.
- **INTESTINAL INFECTION:** (vomiting and/or diarrhea) not associated with changes of diet, or new medication. Children may not return to school until they are 24 hours without vomit and/or diarrhea.
- **STREP THROAT:** Children may NOT return to school until given two doses of an appropriate antibiotic 12 hours apart.
- **RASH:** accompanied by a fever or behavioral changes OR skin infections (impetigo, boils, ringworm)
- **COMMON COLD:** from onset through one week, or if there is a) Runny nose with yellow/green discharge and/or b) persistent cough
- **EYE INFECTIONS:** (pink eye or drainage) – Children must be on medication for a full 24 hours before to returning to school.
- **CROUP**

- **HAND, FOOT, MOUTH:** If your child exhibits bumps or rashes (particularly on their face, around their mouth, hands/feet), they can return to school with a doctor's note and if they have met the following criteria: *fever-free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication), no new blisters/lesions and existing blisters/lesions have closed/begun healing, and children can participate comfortably. This can typically take up to 7 days after symptoms have appeared.*
- **MONKEYPOX:** The preschool will follow guidelines set forth by NC Department of Health and Human Services.
- **OTHER CHILDHOOD COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:** If your child is exposed or becomes ill with a communicable disease, such as chicken pox, scarlet fever, mumps, measles, fifth disease, head lice, etc., the director and the child's teacher must be contacted immediately.
- **INFLUENZA** – In cases of influenza, children who test positive for the flu may be prescribed anti-viral medications which shorten the duration of flu symptoms. **However, these medications do not shorten the amount of time a child is contagious, which could be as long as 7 days after onset of symptoms.** Please do not allow your child to return to school until he/she has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, Tamiflu, etc. AND he/she is no longer exhibiting symptoms of the flu. We reserve the right to ask a parent to keep their child home for additional day(s) to keep the flu from spreading in the classroom.

For the protection of your child and others in the preschool, please keep your child at home when he/she exhibits signs of illness or fever. If your child becomes ill during the morning and, in our opinion, should go home, we will contact you by phone and ask that you pick him/her up. Again, for this reason, it is ESSENTIAL that we can always reach you (or your emergency contact person) during school hours.