



**FIDALGO**  
NATURE • SCHOOL

## Outdoor Preschool COVID-19 Policies

[www.fidalgonatureschool.com](http://www.fidalgonatureschool.com)

Updated Aug 17, 2022

## Disclaimer

Public health is an ever-shifting landscape. FNS procedures will be adjusted to adapt to each situation, using the [Department of Health](#) and [CDC](#) as our guides. This policy may change at any time. Thank you!

## Covid-19 Symptoms and Exclusions

Caregivers/parents, students and teachers are expected to help us have a healthy classroom. Please stay home if any of the following symptoms exist:

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Congestion or sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- Unusual fatigue
- New onset of severe headache
- Muscle or body aches

**Do not arrive at school if any of the above symptoms have been observed.** If a student shows signs of illness or a high temperature during the school day, they will be sent home with a caregiver as soon as possible.

If a student or staff member has any of the symptoms listed above, they will be referred to their personal test kit or health care provider for testing. In order to return to school, they will need either a negative test result or a doctor's note releasing them to return, or if they no longer have symptoms after 5 days.

## Exposure to Covid-19

The Department of Health no longer requires exposed students, children, and staff to quarantine. Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, who are potentially exposed to COVID-19 should:

- Monitor for symptoms, AND
- Test as soon as possible after exposure and then repeat testing every 24-48 hours through at least the first 5 days after exposure.

Our Lead Teacher/ Education Program Director will contact families of children who have been exposed to communicate the risk and current policy. The Executive Director will also contact the relevant health authorities when needed.

## Responding to Cases of Covid-19

A student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 is required to isolate at home or where they are currently residing, regardless of vaccination status. The individual may return after 5 full days of isolation if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms have improved **and** they have had no fever for the past 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Day 0 is the first day of symptoms. For people without symptoms, day 0 is the day of the positive viral test.

Additionally, individuals who test positive using antigen or at-home tests towards the end of the full 5 days of isolation, and/or on days 6-10, are required to complete the 10 full days of isolation. Testing after day 10 is not recommended.

## Drop-off and Pick-up

**Drop-off:** When transmission risk is moderate to high [according to the CDC](#), parents/ caregivers and students will be asked to line up at least 6 feet away from other families to sign in.

**Pick-up:** When transmission risk is moderate to high, children will be seated at circle time or playing in the home-base area and families can line up to sign out, keeping at least 6 feet of distance between them.

## Physical Distancing and Masks

Staff members who are interacting with children on-site will be required to wear a mask when the CDC lists Skagit County as having moderate to high risk for Covid-19 infection. Staff can choose to wear a mask even when there's low to no risk.

Children will have the choice to wear a mask at school, with the expectation that others' choices will be respected. Some may need to wear a mask because they or a member of their household is at high risk for severe COVID-19 disease. Students, children, and staff who are immunocompromised, medically fragile, and/or otherwise at high risk for severe disease should consult their health care team and support network about whether or not to wear masks.

Parents who would like their child to wear a mask at school should speak to teaching staff, who will give the child reminders and encouragement to continue to wear their mask.

## Vaccination

Washington State does not require the Covid- 19 vaccine for children to attend school or childcare. Fidalgo Nature School respects the family and child's choice, knowing that it can be a complex decision. Please connect with your healthcare team and support network for resources.

Per the Department of Health's [statement](#) on August 5, 2022, all employees and consistent classroom visitors/ volunteers in educational settings are required to either:

- be fully vaccinated. This is defined as a person being at least two weeks past their final dose of an authorized COVID-19 vaccine [primary series](#). Boosters are not required at this time.
- have a medical or religious exemption per Governor's proclamation 21-14.3. The forms are provided by our Executive Director.
- Testing negative daily without vaccination is not an allowable alternative to the above mentioned.

FNS staff will complete a simple acknowledgement in our secure folder, then with the workforce registry, MERIT, that they have completed one of the options possible for meeting the vaccine mandate. The Executive Director will notify staff when this functionality is available in MERIT.