



# COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED

## FAQs for Parents

### What is COVID-19?

SARS-CoV-2, a novel coronavirus, was first identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in 2019. There are many coronaviruses, all of which typically cause respiratory disease in humans. The World Health Organization (WHO) named the disease caused by SARS-CoV2 “COVID-19.” (To eliminate potential for confusion with a different coronavirus, SARS-CoV, these FAQs refer to SARS-CoV-2 as “the virus that causes COVID-19” or “COVID-19”). On March 11, 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic due to the number of countries affected by its rapid spread.

### What is the source of COVID-19?

According to the CDC, Public health officials and partners are working hard to identify the source of the virus that causes COVID-19. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). Other coronaviruses are known to infect animals, including camels, cats, and bats. Early on, many COVID-19 cases reported a link to a large seafood and animal market in Wuhan, China, suggesting the virus likely emerged from an animal source. Scientists are currently studying the genes of the viruses to identify its specific source.

### What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

COVID-19 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Other symptoms may include muscle aches/pains, fatigue, and decrease in appetite. According to CDC,

Preliminary information suggests older adults and people with underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems are at higher risk of headache, confusion, rhinorrhea, sore throat, hemoptysis, vomiting, and diarrhea have also been reported, but are less common (<10%). Preliminary information suggests older adults and people with underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems are at higher risk of severe illness from this virus. CDC believes that symptoms of COVID-19 begins between 2 and 14 days after exposure.

### How does COVID-19 spread?

While the initial transmission is believed to have been animal-to-person spread, COVID-19 is now spreading from person-to-person. This is thought to occur via respiratory droplets produced when a person infected with the virus coughs or sneezes, the same way flu and other respiratory illnesses spread. The virus that causes COVID-19 can also be transmitted if people touch surfaces and objects with the virus on it.

### Can COVID-19 be prevented?

The best way to prevent infection is to prevent exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19. CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of any respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash can.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

### Are parents allowed in the classrooms?

Parents will not be given access to the classrooms during pick-up & drop-off. Parents will be permitted on the premise, after hours (when no students are present), by appointment only.

### What health screening process is in place for parents?

Parents are required to complete a brief COVID-19 health survey/questionnaire , daily.

### **Are parents required to wear face masks?**

**Yes**, all parents are required to wear mask/face-covering during drop-off & pick-up.

On April 15, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued Executive Order 202.17. As a result, effective at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2020, any individual who is over age two and able to medically tolerate a face-covering shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a mask or cloth face-covering when in a public place and unable to maintain, or when not maintaining, social distance.

### **When using a face covering, it is recommended that you:**

- Make sure that they fit properly and cover your nose and mouth.
- Be sure to change them frequently and launder them when they are soiled or wet.
- Masks are **not** a replacement for keeping social distance. Masks are appropriate in any situation where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as when you need to get groceries or medications.
- Continue to be vigilant with thorough and frequent hand washing, practice respiratory etiquette and cover your coughs or sneezes, and practice social distancing.
- Finally, stay home and help flatten the curve!

### **What procedures are in place if a child or staff member shows signs or symptoms related to the COVID-19 virus?**

If a child or staff member displays signs or symptoms relating to the flu or the covid-19 virus, he or she will be isolated immediately; and be required to be picked-up or leave the premises immediately.

### **What health screening process is in place for students?**

Students will be required to have their temperature taken on a daily basis.

### **Are student allowed to bring lunch from home?**

Yes, students are allowed to bring lunch from home. However, there have been some important changes made. **The changes are as follows:** All lunches & snacks from home must be sent in disposable brown paper-bags, ziploc bags, etc. Lunch boxes will NOT be accepted into the classrooms. All food items must be sent in disposable wrappings (such as foil, wax paper, zip-loc bags, etc.). We will provide **all** paper products, such as, cups, plates, forks, etc. Our goal is to have all food items that may have come in contact with a child's saliva to be discarded, daily

### **Has there been any changes made regarding the student's uniform / attire?**

There has been no changes made regarding students uniform. However, there has been changes made regarding our students footwear. Students cannot wear shoes with laces that requires to be tied. **Only tie-less shoes or sneakers are allowed.**

### **What policies have been implement to ensure regular cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms?**

To ensure regular cleaning and disinfecting, all classrooms, offices, corridors and frequently touched objects and surfaces (such as, door knobs, light switches, etc.) will be disinfected 1-3 times weekly (and as needed), with EPA approved disinfectants.

### **What policies have been implement to ensure regular cleaning and disinfecting of shared objects or materials between children?**

All shared objects or materials (such as, blocks, legos, etc.) will be disinfected 1-3 times weekly ( and as needed) with EPA approved disinfectants.

### **What are the policies regarding maintaining social distancing between students/students and staff?**

We Recognize that maintaining social distancing is not possible when caring for young children, therefore we have implemented precautionary measures for employees/staff who are taking care of young children and campers during the COVID-19 outbreak, including, but not limited to:

- We have enhanced our cleaning and disinfection protocols.
- Frequent and thorough hand hygiene for both employees, students/campers.
- Whenever a child is soiled with secretions, change the child's clothes and, as necessary, clean the child (e.g. wash hands or arms).
  - Children in child care, preschool or day camp programs should have multiple changes of clothes on hand in the program facility or area. Responsible Parties should make efforts to have spare changes of clothes for children who either do not have extra clothes or have used their extra clothes, as practicable.
  - Contaminated clothes should be placed in a plastic bag and sent home for laundering, or where applicable, washed on premises.
- When diapering/providing assistance with toileting, wear gloves, wash hands (staff and child), and follow cleaning and disinfection steps between each child.
- We have minimized classroom/program activities that required students/camper to be at close proximity and that

*The information provided above is for informational purposes only; and is subject to change without notice.*