UNOW COVID Protocols
(updated: 09/08/2023)

Positive Results, Close Contact Exposure, Symptoms, Masking and Vaccine Information:

If a staff member or child tests positive for COVID:

- they will quarantine at home and return to school on Day 6 if there has been no fever for 24 hours and all symptoms are resolving. The onset of symptoms or the positive result, whichever is first, is Day 0.
- they may return to school on Day 6 and wear a mask from Day 6-10 (if there are two negative results that span 48 hours between Days 6-10, masking is no longer necessary).
- Because of the inability to wear a mask, positive children under the age of 2 may return on Day 8 with a negative test from Day 6 and another from Day 8. Alternatively, positive children under the age of 2 may return after 10 days of isolation with no testing necessary.

If a staff member or child is a close contact of a positive case at home or at school:

- they will report the close contact to the teachers so symptoms can be closely monitored.
- If your child is over the age of 2, a mask will be worn for 10 days with the day of last exposure being Day 0. Symptoms will be closely monitored.
- If your child is under the age of 2, daily symptom screens will be done by teachers in order to closely monitor the development of any symptoms. Families are strongly encouraged to closely monitor for symptoms at home as well.
- A negative test result will be required to return to school at the onset of any one of the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
- Families are strongly encouraged to test on Day 6 following exposure.

Testing Protocols:

- Testing is strongly encouraged whenever any of the following symptoms are present: fever or chills, cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
- A negative test result will be required to return to school when the Community Activity Levels are high and any of the following symptoms are present: fever or chills, cough, difficulty

Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning:
breathing or shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

- Home tests are accepted.
- Time out of school may still be necessary as per the non-COVID illness policy regardless of testing results.

**Masking Protocols:**

- Masking indoors will be required during periods of high Community Activity Level for anyone over the age of 2 in the building.
- When Community Activity Levels are Moderate or Low, masking will be optional for anyone over the age of 2 in the building except during Days 1-10 after an exposure or Days 6-10 after a positive result.
- If families would prefer their child wear a mask for any reason (for example, with immunocompromised family members) teachers will work together with them to help the child continue this practice.
- Families and staff may consider wearing a mask when symptomatic of any respiratory non-COVID illness as a measure of safety for the whole community.
- We value a community culture around masking that recognizes some people will be masked and some unmasked at all times even when it is not required. Individual choices can be made by families and staff that reflect specific circumstances and risk levels regardless of whether masking is required or optional.

**Vaccine Information:**

- Up to date vaccination remains the most critical strategy to prevent severe illness. We strongly encourage all families to vaccinate their children and will work to support families in this endeavor in any way we can with the sharing of information and resources.

Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html