



## **COVID-19 Policies & Procedures Lake Superior Zoo School 2023-2024**

Updated 8/29/23

At the Lake Superior Zoo School (LSZS), we recognize and appreciate our community of families and know that everyone has a part to keep each other safe.

These policies and procedures will change with evolving public health guidance. Please contact Jessamy Schwartz at [jschwartz@lszoo.org](mailto:jschwartz@lszoo.org) or 218-461-3586 with questions.

### **Masking Policy**

- LSZS is a mask-friendly environment. Children and families are welcome to wear masks at any time but are not required to wear masks.
  - o 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.
- Staff are welcome to wear a mask at any time. Staff are required to wear a mask following an exposure.

### **Mitigation Strategies**

- Vaccination: Children ages six months to five years are now eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines. Boosters are available as well.
- Ventilation: We spend most of the day outside and open windows in the classroom when possible.
- Handwashing and sanitizing: Children wash hands before eating and after using the bathroom. We sanitize surfaces after every meal.
- Wellness Check-ins: It is the family's responsibility to tell a teacher about symptoms a child may have at drop-off. If a teacher notices symptoms that were not reported, you can expect a call or message that may result in you returning to school to pick up your child or test for COVID-19.

### **Symptoms**

Parents will be expected to be on alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick. Contact the Preschool Assistant Director if you have questions about whether your child can attend school or when they can return after symptoms.

## Testing

- If your child has symptoms, please test immediately. More information about symptoms can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- If your child was exposed to COVID-19 and does not have symptoms, please wait 5 days after exposure to get tested, unless symptoms develop sooner.
- PCR tests are strongly recommended but not required.
- For more information about when to test and what tests to use, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>

## Testing Positive

- Please notify Zoo School staff immediately via Brightwheel if your child tests positive for COVID-19. Confidentiality will be honored when communicating about a case or outbreak.
- A child who tests positive for COVID-19 should stay home for 10 days. They may return on day 11.
  - o If you have access to antigen tests, you may choose to use them. A child may return 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.
  - o Send a screenshot or photo of each negative test result to Jessamy or Sarah at [jschwartz@lszoo.org](mailto:jschwartz@lszoo.org) or [swilcox@lszoo.org](mailto:swilcox@lszoo.org)
- Visit the CDC website for isolation guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html#when-to-isolate>

## Exposure to a Positive Case of COVID-19

- If your child was exposed to COVID-19, please follow CDC guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html>
- If your child is exposed to COVID-19 at preschool, you will receive a notice via Brightwheel. The anonymous exposure notice will include the date of exposure and suggested testing days. Quarantining following an exposure is no longer recommended by the CDC. You may choose to quarantine your child following an exposure.

## Household Exposure

- o 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 (48 hours) through day 10. A child who develops symptoms or tests positive should follow the isolation guidance.

- 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.
- A child who tests positive should follow the isolation guidance.

### **Financial Policies Relating to COVID-19 Closures**

- Zoo School will not issue refunds for any COVID-19 related reasons including but not limited to closures, quarantine, or illness due to exposure to ill students or staff at the Lake Superior Zoo School or quarantine or illness unrelated to exposure to ill students or staff at Lake Superior Zoo School.
- The non-refundable deposit will remain non-refundable.
- You may choose to keep your child home at any point and continue paying tuition to hold their spot. We continue to require 30 days written notification of withdrawal.
- We understand that COVID-19 has negatively impacted many families' financial situations, and we welcome individual families to reach out about financial policies at any time.