

## The Clifton School Additional COVID-19 Practices and Procedures

### 1. **Updated Guidance on Child Exclusion for a Runny Nose (*exclusion period reduced from 72 hours to 48 hours*)**

If a child has the symptom of a runny nose **ALONE** (without a fever, another COVID-19 related symptom, or chest congestion), the child should be excluded for 48 hours and can return with a doctor's note stating the cause of the runny nose. If the cause is viral or bacterial; i.e., a cold or ear infection, the note will be good for two weeks (unless new symptoms develop.) If the cause is allergies, the note will be good for 30 days (unless new symptoms develop.)

\*The child can return sooner than 48 hours if they obtain a doctor's note and receive a negative COVID-19 test; however, COVID-19 testing for a runny nose without another symptom is not required.

### 2. **Masks and Classroom Environments**

The CDC recommends that children age two years and older wear masks to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. As our 2-year-old students turn 2 ½, we will begin practicing and encouraging them to wear a mask while in the classroom setting. We will start with the children practicing wearing masks during circle time and will slowly progress to mask-wearing during center time. Please allow your child to practice wearing a mask while they are away from school. Please provide a mask for your child to use while they are at school. Please remember masks with valves are not permitted. We have extra masks for children who forget their masks.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

### 3. **Use of humidifiers and air purifiers.** We have purchased humidifiers to use along with our air purifiers to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the classroom environment during the fall and winter months. According to research, the virus that causes COVID-19 thrives in dry air with low humidity. Please click on the link below for more information. <https://hartfordhealthcare.org/about-us/news-press/news-detail?articleid=27912&publicid=395>

### 4. **Masks with valves or vents are not permitted**

Staff, children, and families cannot wear masks with valves or vents to school, even if the mask has a filter. The filter is designed to filter the air the person is breathing in not, the air that is going out. Please see the link below for information about appropriate face coverings.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

### 5. **Updated Travel Practice**

Due to the high level of viral spread across the country ([https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases\\_casesper100klast7days](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days)), The Clifton School will implement the following practice for winter holiday travel (domestic and international). All children or staff should not return to school for a minimum of 7 days after a trip. Children or staff who travel should be tested for COVID-19 3-5 days after traveling. Families who do not want to get their children tested will not return to school for 10 days after traveling. The safest thing would be to not travel at all.

### 6. **COVID-19 Vaccine Symptoms and Health Screening**

If you or someone in your household received the COVID-19 vaccine and are experiencing symptoms resulting in your inability to appropriately answer the health screening questions, please provide documentation of having received the vaccine. We will consider your symptoms

for one week after the date each dose of the vaccine was administered during the health screening process.

7. **COVID-19 Variant Update**

We are aware of the new COVID-19 variants and are consistently reviewing the FDA and CDC websites to learn how to strengthen our practices.

Due to potential false-negative results with antigen tests, we will only accept PCR test results in most cases. We will review every individual's symptoms case-by-case. In instances when an antigen (rapid) test is accepted, it will need to be accompanied with a doctor's note. If a person has several COVID-19 related symptoms and still tests negative, we will move forward with our quarantine practices. Due to the high level of test viral spread and viral variants, we recommend that staff and families as soon as possible when exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms.

8. **COVID Closures and Tuition Payment Updated Policy**  
**Classroom Closures**

If during any 6-month period, a classroom has to be closed for quarantine (14 days or less) more than one time, then as of the second COVID-19 quarantine closing (within that same 6-month period) students assigned to that class will have **tuition prorated based on the number of days excluded from care**. The reduced tuition period will not be extended to allow additional time for testing, awaiting test results, or quarantining beyond the 14-day period. As of the classroom's re-opening, tuition will be charged at 100% for all students assigned to that classroom.

**Schoolwide Closures**

If the schoolwide closing is the family's first COVID-19 (quarantine) school closing, then the family will pay full tuition. If it is the family's second COVID-19 (quarantine) school closing, then the family will pay prorated tuition based on the number of days excluded from care. The reduced tuition period will not include extended time for testing, awaiting test results, or quarantining beyond the 14-day period. When the school re-opens, then all enrolled students will be charged tuition at 100%.

9. **COVID-19 Closure of the School**

The Clifton School will close the site if there are 3 or more classrooms entering into quarantine at the same time or within 5 days of each other. In these instances, the school will close for 14 days. However, only the staff and families of the impacted classes will be required to follow the quarantine guidelines established by DPH (attached).