

# COVID-19 Policy

## Performance Standard: 1302.47(b)(7)(iii)

The following policies have been created by the New Mexico Early Childhood Education & Care Department (updated June 7, 2022) and New Mexico State University (updated April 18, 2022) and clarified for DACHS purposes.

### REQUIRED PRACTICES THAT DACHS WILL FOLLOW:

- All NMSU employees, including DACHS employees, must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by January 4, 2022
- All staff will be trained at orientation regarding DACHS current COVID-19 policies
- All NMSU employees must self-report their COVID-19 case at <https://covid19.nmsu.edu/self-report/>
- DACHS will monitor current COVID-19 conditions and adjust policies according to state, licensing, and university guidelines
- Teachers will conduct daily wellness checks on every child in DACHS classrooms. This will happen at the start of each day when the child enters the classroom. Any COVID-19 symptom observed will be written in the “Daily Health Check” form. A list of COVID-19 symptoms will be displayed near the entrance of the classroom as a reference.
- DACHS must exclude children or staff from the classroom who have two or more symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and/or test positive. If a child starts presenting symptoms during the day, the parent/guardian of the child will be notified to pick up their child.
- All staff, children, and families will follow DACHS handwashing policy which states how to effectively wash hands and how often to do so (all staff will receive a copy of this)
- Frequently touched surfaces (tables, toys, doorknobs, light switches, chairs, cubbies, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, diaper changing mat and table, writing utensils, and after using learning pods) will be cleaned with a solution of 70% Alcohol and 30% water throughout the day
- Fridays are designated as deep cleaning days
- Staff will disinfect office spaces and desk areas on a routine basis (two times a day) with the disinfectant wipes or sprays; waiting the recommended contact time. Staff is required to disinfect their workstation 30-45 minutes prior to leaving the office at end of day
- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection
- All staff will follow DACHS toy washing policy. Any toys that have saliva on them will be removed until they can be disinfected.
- DACHS will not serve family style meals. All staff serving food or handling utensils will wear gloves.
- Head Start’s performance standard to brush teeth during the day will be postponed until further notice
- Any child or staff member who chooses to wear a mask will not be belittled for doing so
- Parents/guardians will be notified of a positive COVID-19 case the same day that staff learn of a positive case
- All staff who learn of a positive COVID-19 will notify the health & nutrition specialist

### Mandatory Weekly Child Care COVID-19 Report

DACHS is required to complete a weekly Child Care COVID-19 Report by 10 a.m. Tuesday. Failure to comply may result in penalties. Link to online form for weekly reporting can be found at <https://www.nmeccd.org/mandatory-covid-report/>

## Quarantine Policy Due to COVID-19 Symptoms and/or positive COVID-19 test

For anyone who tests positive for COVID regardless of vaccination status:

- Stay home and isolate for 5 days. Day 0 is the day of symptom onset, or the day the positive test was taken (for asymptomatic persons).
- You DO NOT need to get an additional PCR test if you have had a positive at-home rapid test. Any positive test is considered positive.
- If you have no symptoms after 5 DAYS, you can leave your house but must wear a mask for 5 more days. KN95 masks are preferred. If an individual cannot wear a mask, they are not eligible for the 5-day isolation and must isolate for 10 days.
- If you have a fever, or other persistent symptoms, continue to stay home in isolation until your fever is gone for 24 hours and other symptoms are resolving.
- To prevent the spread of COVID, tell anyone you have recently had close contact with and encourage them to get tested, monitor for symptoms, and reduce exposure to other people.

For anyone who has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine):

*These guidelines differ depending on your vaccination status*

- If you are up to date on all COVID-19 vaccines that you are eligible for:
  - Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days. Day 0 is the day of exposure; day 1 is the day after the exposure.
  - Test on Day 5 if possible.
  - If you develop symptoms at any time, get tested if possible and stay at home until you get your results.
  - If you can't get a test, but still have symptoms, assume you are positive and follow guidelines for a COVID-positive test.
- If you are unvaccinated, or If you are not up to date on all COVID-19 vaccines you are eligible for:
  - Stay at home and quarantine for 5 days.
  - Then wear a well-fitting mask around others for 5 MORE DAYS. KN95 masks are preferred. Anyone who cannot wear a mask must quarantine at home for 10 days.
  - Test on Day 5, if possible.
  - If you develop symptoms at any time, get tested if possible and stay at home until you get your results.
  - If you can't get a test, but still have symptoms, assume you are positive and stay home and follow guidelines for a COVID-positive test.
  - If a close contact is continuously exposed (i.e., lives in the same household), the unvaccinated close contact must quarantine for the 5 days the positive person is infectious AND an additional 5 days in case the close contact converts to positive. This means that household members living with a COVID positive individual must quarantine for a minimum of 10 days.
- For anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 regardless of your vaccination status:
  - Get either an at-home rapid test or PCR test if possible and stay at home until you know your test result.
  - If you test positive, follow the guidelines for a positive test result.

- If you test negative on a rapid test but still have symptoms, continue to stay at home and get a PCR test OR a second at-home rapid test in 1-2 days.
- If you test positive on the PCR or second at-home rapid test, follow guidelines for a COVID-positive test.
- If you can't get a test, but still have symptoms, assume you are positive and isolate.