

ADDENDUM TO FAMILY HANDBOOK

2021-2022 School Year

Olympic Nature Experience cares deeply about the health and wellbeing of all of our community members. We are working diligently to keep our policies both safe and responsive to the needs of the community. We anticipate needing to change our policies, our class structure and our practices often to respond and care for our community. We are always doing our best to read the latest guidance, research and feedback from families to make the best decision possible. Thank you for remaining flexible. Know that things will change, and we will make new decisions that we feel best serve our community. Your feedback is valuable and welcome. You can email us with your concerns at any time.

Back to school orientation nights will take place in-person, on September 8th and 9th. You will be required to attend even if you are a returning and experienced family.

Closing Procedures and Tuition

We will be following Clallam County Emergency Management, Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Washington State Governor's guidelines. If at any time, we are required to close, or we think it is prudent to close due to safety concerns, we will close.

Tuition is due by the 1st of the month and is considered late after the 5th. If we close at any point in the month, tuition will be kept for that month only.

Distance learning will be offered for a minimum of 10 days and a maximum of the remainder of the month.

Masks

Staff and Participants Under 12: All participants under the age of 12 are not required to wear a mask. Staff who are fully vaccinated and have provided proof of vaccination are not required to wear masks or face coverings. Unvaccinated staff will wear face coverings in Early Learning. We are fully supportive of all participants or staff who choose to wear a mask.

Drop Off and Pick Up: Parents dropping off or picking up their child will not be required to wear a mask. However, we ask that if you choose to stay to talk to a teacher or parent to please be mindful of distance and/or have a mask available.

Adventure Club Family Camp and Visiting Adults: **All visiting adults** and Adventure Club Family Camp adult participants will be required to wear a mask when at Nature School except when eating, drinking, or socially distancing from other participants or staff. We will have masks available upon request. Thank you for helping us keep our youngest participants who are unable to vaccinate safe.

Health Screenings

Before coming to school take time to visually inspect your child each morning for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness, coughing or a runny nose. Children showing any symptoms of illness will not be allowed at school.

School Arrival Procedures

1. If a child or their immediate family member has a fever of 100.40 or above, they will not be admitted to nature school. Other covid-related symptoms could require your child to stay home. Your lead teacher is available the morning of class to help you navigate this decision, depending on which symptoms your child is exhibiting.
2. You will be asked the following COVID-19 screening questions each morning:

Section I: Symptoms

- a. Has your child had any fever-reducing medication in the past 24 hours?
- b. Does your child have any of the following symptoms?
 - i. Temperature of 100.4°F or higher
 - ii. Cough, sore throat or shortness of breath
 - iii. Congestion or runny nose
 - iv. Headache
 - v. Muscle, body aches or chills
 - vi. Fatigue
 - vii. Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
 - viii. New loss of taste or smell

Section II: Exposure

- c. Does anyone in your household have any of the above symptoms?
 - d. Has your child been in close contact with anyone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
3. Upon arrival, sanitize your hands and your child's hands with provided sanitizer or sanitizer you bring from home.
 4. Apply sunscreen or bug spray to your child, they will be provided if needed.
 5. Teachers will sign your child in; your drop-off routine is contact-free.
 6. Instead of using our "backpack spot" children will now be given a "nest" where they will keep their personal items and have their own tarp for sitting and eating.

Hand Sanitizing

- We will continue to teach and reinforce "handwashing" by using our 70%+ alcohol based sanitizer with added lavender, tea tree, and rosemary essential oils.
- Children will continue to wash hands:
 - Prior to and after eating
 - After using the bathroom
 - Any time they touch their faces

Please do not send special hand sanitizer with your child in as it poses a safety concern for children to have unsupervised access to hand sanitizer and it is a requirement that students use hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol.

Teachers will keep hand sanitizer in their pockets and students will use it under adult supervision only.

Social Distancing

- In place of a communal sheet each child will be given a personal fabric ("nest") to sit on during mealtimes, morning gatherings, and fine motor activities.
- There may be times when we move into smaller groups during mealtimes and group activities to provide more physical distance between children.

- The curriculum of the Early Learning class is based on peer play and interaction. These students will not be encouraged to socially distance in their play, however, small group work is encouraged and transmission in this age group is extremely low.
- Social distancing among older children will be encouraged through intentional planning of curriculum that supports this to the best of our ability. This means choosing and adapting activities to limit sharing of supplies and physical closeness.
- Although we will be limiting contact, we will still be providing comfort and care throughout the day, in keeping with the social/emotional needs of young children. This includes nurturing touch such as hugs and hand holding when age appropriate.
- Children will not be disciplined for showing caring touch towards others. This is a healthy and important way to communicate. We will teach students supportive ways to care for each other while increasing distance such as holding a stick like a locomotive over hand holding, etc.
- We understand that young children need social contact and forcing separation and social distancing is not developmentally appropriate.
- Please consider how you are adhering to social distancing in your lives outside of nature school. This can help with the health and well-being of the children and the reopening of our school. Our goal is to keep everyone safe.

Sanitizing Procedures

- Items used frequently by all students (such as markers and blocks) will be cleaned using a 2-step cleaning and sanitizing method.
- Personal nests are individually used, and will be cleaned regularly.
- Materials that children have placed in their mouth or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions will be set aside until they are cleaned and sanitized by hand by a teacher wearing gloves.
- Children's books and other paper-based materials are not considered high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.
- We will use hypochlorous acid (HOCl) as our EPA-certified sanitizing agent, which is both safe and very effective.

Procedures for Illness

If a child shows signs of illness at school:

- We will contact parents immediately to pick your child up if they show the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
- We will set up a separate place for them to rest, away from the other children. We will help them find an activity for them to do while they wait for their parents to arrive.
- Call when you arrive, so we can arrange for a teacher to take your child to you.
- We will disinfect any materials the child has used that day.

If COVID-19 is confirmed in a child or staff member who attended class:

- We will coordinate with local health officials. These officials will help us determine a course of action for our school.
- We will sanitize all materials used by the class using HOCl, which is already our daily practice.

Staff illness and absence:

- We will continue to require staff to stay home when sick.
- We will develop plans to cover classes in the event of staff absences by increasing our roster of qualified substitutes.

In the event a single class or the entire school closes due to COVID-19 exposure, students will be offered distance learning until they can return to school, refunds will not be given during this time.

In the event your student/family needs to quarantine due to COVID-19 policies, we are unable to pro-rate tuition or offer make-up days.

Exposure to COVID-19 and/or Returning to School After Having Suspected Signs of COVID-19

Families who have come in contact with a person suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 must inform Olympic Nature Experience staff immediately.

Your child or any member of your household has been notified of an exposure through close contact with an individual confirmed to have a positive case of COVID-19 keep your child home for 10 days and students should only return to school after their quarantine period if students have been symptom free and received a negative COVID-19 test.

A staff member or student who has signs of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 **are required to get a negative COVID-19 test or exclude from school for 10 days and be fever free for 24 hours with all symptoms improving.**

Less Specific:

Fatigue
Muscle or body aches
Headache
Sore throat
Congestion or runny nose
Nausea or vomiting
Diarrhea

More specific:

Fever (100.4°) or chills
Cough
Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
New loss of taste or smell

Your teacher will not allow your child back in class without confirming that you have communicated with our office about meeting one of the above criteria.

Parent Communication

- We will continue to communicate with parents through email. We will continue to notify by phone for more imminent information.
- We will continue to share health information and resources.

Resources for Guidance

Center for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF): <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19/early-learning>

WA Department of Health (DOH):

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/DOH-OSPI-DYCF-SchoolsChildCareGuidance.pdf>

Clallam County: <http://www.clallam.net/coronavirus/index.html>

American Association of Pediatrics: <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/guidance-related-to-childcare-during-covid-19/>



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