



# COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for Red Cliff Early Childhood Center

Approved  
Policy Council 8-16-22  
Tribal Council 8-23-22

The Red Cliff Early Childhood Center created a comprehensive COVID mitigation plan in March 2021 to allow us to return to face to face services. We returned students at a reduced capacity and took every precaution we could to help ensure the health and safety of all staff and students. The past 2 years have proven to be challenging, especially when it came to close contact quarantine and required testing for community members. Many of the changes to programming that were made in March 2021 and March 2022 are no longer needed as we have learned more about the virus and how to keep ourselves healthy. The detailed plan that follows is an amendment to the original plan and the amended plan in March 2022. Items that are not specifically addressed have been determined to return to normal.

As stated in the previous plan, we are aware that changes are happening constantly, and we are continuously monitoring the situation. If changes need to be made you will be notified as early as possible. This plan will be evaluated quarterly to adjust for current trends and COVID-19 case levels.

- All HS and EHS classrooms are at full capacity and are providing face to face services from 7:45-3:00. Early Head Start will be providing services Monday through Friday. Head Start will be providing services Monday through Thursday.
- Transition plans are still in effect.
- Bus routes - **(At this time, there is no provided bus transportation due to lack of drivers. Once this changes families will be notified.)**
- We are still asking that parents monitor their child's health and notify the center if their child is showing symptoms of COVID-19. *(Please see symptom list at the end of this document.)* Slight runny noses can be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Parents should call their child's teacher prior to bringing the child to school to avoid undue stress.
- Staff who have tested positive, are considered close contacts or are exhibiting symptoms, will follow tribal policy.
- If a child is considered a close contact, they will need to follow these requirements (this does not apply to children who are a close contact to an immediate family member living in their household):
  - Children will be asked to test at day 0 and day 6. Take home tests will be provided by the ECC. A family will conduct the test at home and, if the test is negative, they can

return to school. If the test is positive, family will contact the RCCHC or Bayfield County to report the positive case. They will also notify the ECC that their child will not be in due to testing positive. Family will follow quarantine guidelines given to them by either the RCCHC or Bayfield County Public Health.

- Children over 2 who are close contacts are expected to wear a mask days 1-10 while indoors, other than when they are sleeping, eating or drinking. **No child will ever be forced to wear a mask and will not be disenrolled from the program for refusal to wear a mask or due to the parents' refusal to have their child wear a mask. Parents can send their written request to opt out of mask wearing to the ECC's Health Department or to their child's teacher.**
- The RCCHC will call and notify all families if their child is a close contact from being at the ECC and will give families information they may need. The ECC will also contact families and give return dates and other ECC specific information.
- All children in the center will be monitored daily for symptoms and the health algorithm (see attached) will be used to determine if the symptoms are new or a result of an ongoing, diagnosed and documented health issue (ECC must have documentation of such diagnosis).
- If a child has an immediate family member who is positive, they will not be able to attend school for 5 calendar days from last day of contact with the positive person. They will be able to return after the 5<sup>th</sup> day if they show no symptoms and have a negative take home test (provided by the ECC). They will be required to wear a mask upon return through day 10. **No child will ever be forced to wear a mask and will not be disenrolled from the program for refusal to wear a mask or due to the parents' refusal to have their child wear a mask. Parents can send their written request to opt out of mask wearing to the ECC's Health Department or to their child's teacher.**
- Families will be notified of the positive in the building (we cannot single out classrooms) and be given the option to keep their child home for up to 5 calendar days as an excused absence. They will not receive any meals or activities. Teachers will do a check in if they are out for longer than 5 calendar days. Absence after 5 calendar days could negatively impact attendance. Should a child develop symptoms during this 5-day period, they will be sent home until symptoms begin to resolve and they have a negative at home test.

- Children will continue to be sent home if they are too sick to participate in daily activities or if they meet any of the exclusion criteria that was in place prior to COVID along with the COVID exclusion policy. This is regardless as to whether or not the child shows a negative COVID test.
- Children who test positive will not be able to attend school for 10 calendar days and then would be able to return if symptoms are resolving and they feel well enough to participate. Tribal guidelines for positive cases states days 1-5 they are to stay home and days 6-10 they can return with a well-fitting mask. Given the ages of the children at the ECC, we have determined it best to maintain no school for 10 calendar days to help ensure the safety of all children and staff.
- Tribal quarantine orders are expected to continue to be followed for all staff and children. It is asked that all parents either sign the COVID-19 release of information for the Red Cliff Community Health Center or provide documentation stating when your child is released from quarantine. The ECC reserves the right to deny a child re-entry to the ECC without official confirmation of quarantine dates. This is to help ensure the safety and well-being of other children and staff.
- **All children and their families can use the RCCHC for COVID testing. This testing is at no cost to the family. The ECC will ask all families to sign a release of information so that we can collaborate with the RCCHC to help ensure the safety of our staff and children.**
- Based on the Office of Head Start mandate, all staff, volunteers, substitutes, and contractors are required to be fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption request on file. For more details, please visit the Office of Head Start site.
- Based on the Office of Head Start mandate, all staff, students over age 2 and other individuals entering the building are required to wear a mask. No child will ever be forced to wear a mask and will not be disenrolled from the program for refusal to wear a mask or due to the parents' refusal to have their child wear a mask. Parents can send their written request to opt out of mask wearing to the ECC's Health Department or to their child's teacher. **(At this time, the Office of Head Start is not monitoring for masks and the Red Cliff Tribal Council has lifted the mask requirement for all staff.)**

- Office of Head Start has removed enrollment and attendance flexibilities that have been in place since March 2020. All children are expected to maintain 85% attendance and regular days of service are reinstated. The Head Start program must operate at least 1,020 hours for the school year and Early Head Start must operate for 1,380 hours.
- Backpacks and other personal items (blankets) are allowed at school. However, we still discourage toys and other items from home.
- We are still limiting outside individuals in classrooms. At this time, parents are not allowed to spend time in rooms other than to drop off and pick up. We are still asking that individuals (including parents) do not spend more than 15 minutes a day in a room to help decrease unneeded exposure.
- In the event the ECC is short staffed due to illness, quarantine, or other teacher absence, we will make every attempt possible to keep all rooms open. If we do not have the qualified staff to cover the operation of a room (often this means moving teaching staff around), we will close it for the day or for the time frame that cannot be covered. We understand that this is highly inconvenient for families and do our best to avoid this happening. We also understand that moving teachers from room to room can be confusing for children, but we are doing whatever we can to keep all rooms open.
- Bayfield School Special Education specialists are entering rooms to provide services to all children with IEP's. All Bayfield School staff have proof of vaccination or an approved exemption on file with the tribe's HR department.
- Frequent handwashing is still a requirement for all staff and students.
- Staff clean using the high temp dishwasher in the kitchen or the recommended solution of bleach and water in a spray bottle.
- Should a child or staff person test positive for COVID the following will take place –
  - Positive individual will be sent home upon notification to the ECC.
  - The classroom will finish off the remainder of the school day and the affected areas will be fogged in the evening. If a classroom cannot stay open due to staff shortage, parents will be notified to pick their children up.
  - Areas or classrooms that need to be fogged will be closed the following day for deep cleaning. Children in that room will not have school that day. Example – A

child is determined to be positive for COVID on Tuesday. The classroom will be shut down on Wednesday for cleaning and will reopen on Thursday.

- Red Cliff Community Health staff and ECC staff will contact all families whose child was in contact with the positive person and share guidelines and requirements.
- Notification will go out to all families in the center, State of Wisconsin Licensing office and the Office of Head Start that someone tested positive for COVID, but no other information will be given. This will also be posted on the ECC and tribal webpage and throughout the building.
- Children and staff in the classroom or area where the positive case was identified will be monitored for developing symptoms. Staff will be tested at the center upon notification (per Tribal policy). Should a child or staff member begin to develop symptoms while in the building, they will be sent home and will be able to return after 5 calendar days if symptoms are resolving and take home COVID test is negative.
- Testing is still available at the Red Cliff Community Healthy Center. These tests will be a rapid test with results in an hour. Release will need to be signed for the ECC Health Office to receive test results from medical office.
- If a teacher tests positive, all children and staff will be tested and monitored for symptoms. The teacher will be out for 5 calendar days and may return if symptoms are resolving. They are required to wear a mask days 6-10. Depending on staffing in the building, class may have to be closed due to being short a teacher. Families will be notified as quickly as possible should this need to happen.
- If a student tests positive, all children and staff in close contact will be tested and monitored for symptoms. Return dates for children who have tested positive will be 10 calendar days from day of positive test or onset of symptoms. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. ECC health office, ECC Administration and/or RCCHC staff will be involved in determining the return date.

- If it is determined that a child should be tested (according to Red Cliff COVID policy) and a family refuses, that child may not be allowed at the center for 5 calendar days (Presumptive Positive).
- Staff PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) - The ECC will provide masks, gloves, and other required PPE to all staff. Staff are required to follow the Tribe's COVID plan/policy, including mask guidelines.
- Child PPE - Facemasks are not recommended for children under two or for children with a compromised respiratory system. Based on Office of Head Start mandate, facemask use on children two years and older will be required. Parents may opt out of this by sending a written request to the ECC health office or to the classroom teacher. No child will be forced to wear a mask or will be disenrolled for refusal to wear the mask or their parents' refusal to have them wear one. For more detailed information, please visit the Office of Head Start website or ask the ECC health office for more information. If a parent decides to have a child wear a facemask, they must understand:
  - ECC will provide facemasks for children. Families are also able to provide their own facemasks. Please be sure your child's name is clearly marked. All ECC masks will be labeled with the child's name or classroom number.
  - If a child takes off their facemask, ECC staff will ask the child if they would like to put the mask back on. If the child refuses, staff will put the facemask in a paper bag in the child's cubby.
  - Facemasks will be available on the bus if needed. **(No bus transportation at this time)**
  - Facemasks will be removed at rest time, as these can be a strangulation and breathing hazard. Face masks are also removed to eat, drink and brush teeth.
  - Facemasks will be washed at the ECC daily. Soiled facemasks will be replaced as needed.
  - There will be other children in our program not using facemasks.

**(At this time, the Office of Head Start is not monitoring for masks and the Red Cliff Tribal Council has lifted the mask requirement for all staff. ECC will follow Tribal guidelines.)**

- Children will be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms throughout the day, as is the case for all exclusionary illnesses. Should a child develop symptoms during the school day, staff will follow the algorithm created by Dr. Darling at the Red Cliff Community Health Center. This is attached at the end of this document. If it is determined that these symptoms are not chronic or regular for the child, parents will be contacted and asked to pick their child up. Children sent home with symptoms can be tested and return with a negative test and decrease in symptoms or they can return after 5 days with a decrease in symptoms. The ECC reserves the right to deny access to any child if it is determined that other children and staff would be at higher risk of COVID or other illness if they returned to the classroom.
- Toothbrushing is done in “circle” style under the supervision of teachers. For more information on circle brushing, contact your child’s teacher.
- At rest time, students are placed at least 2 feet apart based on State of Wisconsin licensing requirements. Masks are removed for rest time.
- Classroom windows will be open as often as possible and when appropriate to increase ventilation in the room.
- Drop off and pick up are conducted via the Head Start or Early Head Start playground gates. Families are asked to only enter the doorway and to stay less than 15 minutes in a day (combined drop off and pick up times).

Thank you to all families, staff and community members who have supported us in our efforts to return to normal services and maintain health and wellness of all. We understand that things are changing constantly with COVID, and we will do our very best to be responsive to the needs of the community, families and the recommendations of the Tribe and State of Wisconsin. We will shut the center down if cases rise, and the risk outweighs the benefit of children being at school.

***\*The Red Cliff Early Childhood Center follows the Red Cliff Tribal COVID-19 testing and quarantine policy. If there are any questions, please reach out to the Center Director or Administrator at 715-779-5030.***



To help your family prepare for each school day, we are asking that you screen your child for the following symptoms. These, along with any symptoms on the ECC Exclusion list, may prevent your child from entering the building. We are also asking that you evaluate if any of the members of your household have any of these symptoms or as this may also prevent your child from entering the building. If you or anyone in your house has been diagnosed with COVID-19, please follow close contact requirements put forth by the Red Cliff Tribe. By screening at home beforehand, you will be able to prepare your child if they cannot attend class that day. If you are unsure, please call your child's teacher, the ECC health office or the Red Cliff Community Health Center for further guidance.

SYMPTOMS TO SCREEN FOR-

CHILLS	COUGH	DIFFICULTY BREATHING	RUNNY NOSE
FATIGUE/TIRED	FEVER IN THE PAST 24 HOURS (temp of 100.4 degrees F or above)		
MUSCLE PAIN	NAUSEA OR VOMITING	NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL	
REPEATED SHAKING WITH/CHILLS		SHORTNESS OF BREATH	
SORE THROAT	USED A FEVER REDUCER (in the past 24 hours)	HEADACHE	

Has your child or anyone in your house been in contact with or around a person who had COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above your child may not be able attend face to face services that day. The ECC asks that you call the Red Cliff Community Health Center or your physician to get further guidance. The ECC will need something from that provider saying that your child is safe to attend class (negative COVID-19 test or other documentation that they are cleared to be at school). They can return as soon as that documentation (or phone call) is received.

#### **14.1 Exclusion Criteria due to illness**

The ECC does not provide care for ill children. The Red Cliff ECC uses the following criteria to determine whether to exclude children with short term illnesses, however exclusion is determined on a case-by-case basis.

1. Children are expected to participate, when attending, including outdoor play.
2. The child does not feel well enough to participate in the usual activities of the program.
3. The child has a confirmed communicable disease as noted above.
4. The staff cannot care for the sick child without interfering with the care of the other children at the facility.
5. The child maintains a fever (100.4 F or above by armpit or ear) and/or has indications of a possible contagious disease or an immediate need for medical evaluation.
6. The child has been vomiting or has had diarrhea within the last 24 hours.
7. The child has a sore throat, frequent cough, eye inflammation, rash, or lice/nits.

ECC staff should evaluate a child for possible exclusion and use their best judgment. If the child meets any of the exclusion items #1 - #7 above, an ill child must be picked up within one (1) hour or the Emergency Contact person on the enrollment form will be called.

Parents and guardians cannot insist that the ECC accept an ill child. Parents must contact the ECC if medication for fever, diarrhea and/or other illness has been provided at home within the last 24 hours before the child attended the Center. This helps teachers and parents observe the child's status together and are not for exclusion purposes as long as the child has none of the criteria above.

See the exclusion chart on Appendix F.

Any case of the following communicable diseases will be immediately reported to the Red Cliff Community Health Center for follow-up.

1. Fifth Disease
2. Chicken Pox
3. Scabies
4. Pertussis
5. Measles
6. Impetigo
7. Mumps
8. Influenza
- 9 Hepatitis
10. Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease
11. Influenza-like Illness

For any of the above communicable illnesses (but not limited to these), a communicable disease notification letter and information sheet will go home with each child informing parents that an ECC child had or has this communicable disease. The notification letter and informational sheet

will also be posted on the ECC main entrance door. The notification will state the date of diagnosis, type of disease, and an explanation of the disease. The ill child's name will not be mentioned.

If parents suspect that their child has or recently had a communicable disease and attended the ECC, they should notify ECC staff immediately. If the child cannot participate in daily activities, he/she must stay home. A child must no longer be contagious to return to school (Appendix F: Exclusion Chart). A written note from a doctor or nurse practitioner stating that the child is not contagious may also be submitted to allow a child's return to school.