

Dear Fall 2021 Launch Families—

We are so looking forward to having your children with us this school year! We thank you for your patience as we continue to adapt to the changing landscape of COVID-19 and new requirements from the Department of Children Youth and Families, King County Department of Health, and Seattle Public Schools.

As we prepare for Seattle Public Schools to reopen at full capacity, please make sure you read the below Health and Safety information thoroughly, as there are significant changes. We have included a matrix to help guide our decisions regarding closures, and will continue to work with our partners at Public Health to ensure that the safety of our students, staff and families is at the heart of our decision making.

Per Governor Inslee's mandate, ALL licensed child care staff must be fully vaccinated by October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Launch will adhere to this guidance, and has begun our internal process to verify staff vaccination status.

Additionally, per Governor Inslee's guidance, ALL people, including volunteers and families, must be vaccinated enter Launch's program spaces while children are present. Beginning October 18<sup>th</sup>, all Launch employees and any volunteer or parent who wish to enter the program space will be asked about their vaccination status prior to entering any Launch programs.

### **COVID-19 Prevention Best Practices**

#### ***MASKS***

Children and teachers continue to wear face masks at all times at Launch. Families are asked to provide their child with at least 2 masks each day. Launch will keep a supply of masks for children if needed.

#### ***PHYSICAL DISTANCING***

We will continue to minimize close contact whenever possible. We will maintain a physical distance of three feet or more between students in classroom settings to the degree it is possible and reasonable, which allows for full-time, in-person learning for all students. A school's ability to do so will depend on students' ages, developmental and physical abilities, and available space.

#### ***HANDWASHING***

We will continue frequent handwashing — with teacher support — throughout the day.

#### ***CLEANING & DISINFECTING***

Classroom spaces and high touch surfaces will be frequently disinfected throughout the day.

#### ***MEALS***

Meals and snacks will NOT be offered in family style.

### **Illness Policy**

Launch staff will continue to facilitate health screenings at arrival for children. All staff will complete a health screening prior to entering program space. Any visitors must complete a health screening prior to entering program space.

### **Tuition Policy**

Per Launch Policy, there are no credits or refunds for any short-term closures relating to COVID-19 or any days missed while a student is in quarantine. In the event of a classroom, school, or district-wide closure, Launch leadership will meet to evaluate appropriate next steps. The decision to reopen classrooms, open a Full Day program, or to continue an After School program during such a closure would be based on community safety, space availability, and staffing ability.

**Launch reserves the right to modify/adjust our COVID-19 Response Protocol and Closing Matrix at any time.**

### **Health & Safety Guidance**

#### **1. When should sick students or staff isolate/quarantine and for how long?**

Sick students or staff who have not been in close contact with anyone with confirmed COVID-19 should be encouraged to follow-up with a medical provider if possible, especially if symptoms get worse.

If they have NOT been tested for COVID-19\*, they should remain home for at least 10 days after symptoms began, AND at least 24 hours after fever has resolved AND symptoms have improved. If they tested NEGATIVE for COVID-19, they should remain home for at least 24 hours after fever has resolved and symptoms have improved.

NOTE\*: If a student or staff has ONLY ONE short-term symptom, as defined below, they may return to school the next day. A COVID-19 test is not required, though still recommended for anyone experiencing one or more symptoms. A person with a short-term symptom has:

- ONE of the following symptoms: fatigue; headache; muscle pain or body aches; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; or diarrhea
- AND the symptom begins and resolves in less than 24 hours
- AND there is no known COVID-19 exposure

Example: Student wakes up on Monday with a sore throat. Student cannot go to school due to symptom. By the afternoon, the sore throat is gone. Student wakes up on Tuesday with no symptoms. Student can go to school.

#### **2. What about staff/students who are considered close contacts of someone who tested positive?**

Generally, a close contact is someone who was within six feet of a person with COVID-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes over a 24-hour period during the period of time when the person with COVID-19 was infectious. The infectious period of someone with COVID-19 starts two days before the onset of symptoms, or is estimated as two days before the positive test collection date if someone with COVID-19 is asymptomatic

In a Preschool-Grade 12 indoor classroom, the close contact definition excludes students who were at least three feet away from an infected student when (a) both students were wearing face coverings/masks and (b) other prevention strategies were in place.

## Launch Fall 2021 Health & Safety

People who may be exempt from quarantine:

- Close contacts who are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms do not need to quarantine, but should be tested 3-5 days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and wear a mask in all public indoor spaces for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. They should isolate and follow appropriate guidance if they test positive. If they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.
- Close contact who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past three months, have recovered and do not have symptoms, do not need to quarantine but should watch for symptoms and get tested if symptoms develop.

Sick staff members or parents/guardians of sick students should notify Launch immediately if they or someone in their home tests positive for COVID-19.

### **3. How long should students or staff with confirmed COVID-19 remain out of school and Launch's child care programs?**

Staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 should stay at home until:

- 10 days have passed since symptoms first started
- AND 24 hours after fever has resolved (without the use of fever-reducing medications)
- AND symptoms have improved. Staff members or students who test positive for COVID-19 but have no symptoms should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since the date of their test. Anyone who experiences severe symptoms may need to remain out of school and child care longer. They should consult with a medical provider before returning to school and child care.

### **4. What will prompt a Launch-initiated closure?**

All cases of COVID-19 and outbreaks in schools and child care facilities must be reported to the local health jurisdiction as per Washington State law ([WAC 246-101](#)). In addition, schools, child care facilities, and the general public must cooperate with public health authorities in the investigation of cases and outbreaks that may be associated with the school or child care center ([WAC 246-101](#)). A COVID-19 outbreak in a school or child care center is considered when the following have been met:

- There are two or more COVID-19 cases among students or staff.
- The cases have a symptom onset or positive test result within a 14-day period of each other.
- The cases are epidemiologically linked.
- The cases do not share a household.
- The cases are not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during the investigation.

This guidance is in alignment with the Washington State Department of Health [K-12 Schools Reopening](#) guidance. Launch will assess each positive COVID-19 case in our programs, and determine the best route with guidance from our Public Health Nurse Consultant. Please see the Launch COVID-19 Closure Matrix (Appendix B) in this document.

Launch programs located in Seattle Public Schools *may* be required to close based on the guidance from King County Public Health and Seattle Public Schools. Launch will notify families as we received information.

### 5. Returning to a Program after Travel

Travelers should follow [CDC travel guidance](#). Travelers who are not fully vaccinated should get tested with molecular or antigen test 1-3 days before their trip, get tested with a molecular or antigen test 3-5 days after travel, and stay home and self-quarantine for a full seven days after travel, even if their test is negative. If the traveler is positive, they should isolate and follow DOH guidance on what to do if you have confirmed or suspected COVID-19. If the traveler doesn't get tested, they should stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.

Travelers who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can travel within the United States and do not need COVID-19 testing or post-travel self-quarantine as long as they continue to take precautions while traveling, including: wear a mask when using public transportation and in accordance with all state and local recommendations and requirements, avoid crowds, and wash hands frequently. Fully vaccinated travelers entering the United States should get a molecular or antigen test 3-5 days after travel, self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, and isolate and get tested if they develop symptoms. All air passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board a flight to the United States. This is required regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

## CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Domestic Travel <small>RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS</small>	Not Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated
Get tested 1-3 days before travel	✓	
Get tested 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for 7 days. Self-quarantine for 10 days if you don't get tested.	✓	
Self-monitor for symptoms	✓	✓
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓	✓



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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**Appendix B**

Launch COVID-19 Closure Matrix

**COVID-19 Exposure Scenario Protocols**

*Families will be notified in the event of any positive COVID-19 cases within the center.*

IF...	THEN...
One staff member/student tests positive for COVID-19	Launch will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clean and sanitize program space(s)</li> <li>- Require all staff receive a NEGATIVE test, but continue to work while awaiting results</li> <li>- Encourage families at that site to complete a COVID-19 test</li> <li>- Remain OPEN</li> </ul>
Two staff members/student(s) in the same building test positive for COVID-19 more than one week apart.	Launch will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clean and sanitize program space(s)</li> <li>- Require all staff receive a NEGATIVE COVID-19 test prior to return</li> <li>- Require all students receive a NEGATIVE COVID-19 test prior to return</li> <li>- Remain OPEN</li> </ul>
Two staff members/student(s) in the same building test positive for COVID-19 within one week	Launch will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CLOSE for 48 hours to deep clean/sanitize program space(s)</li> <li>- Require all staff receive a NEGATIVE COVID-19 test prior to return</li> <li>- Require all students receive a NEGATIVE COVID-19 test prior to return</li> </ul>
Full Outbreak of COVID-19 of approximately 3 or more cases within a week	Launch will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CLOSE for 10 days from the LAST day a COVID-19 positive staff member/student was present</li> <li>- Deep clean all program spaces</li> <li>- All staff &amp; students must receive a NEGATIVE COVID-19 test prior to return</li> </ul>