



COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for Red Cliff Early Childhood Center

Red Cliff Early Childhood Center Management
3-14-2022

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 year has 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 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. Items that are not specifically addressed have been determined to return to normal. A notation will be made that normal service or process will resume but it will not go into detail as to what that process is..

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 Monday through Thursday from 7:45-3:00. Early Head Start is not providing services on Friday. This day is still set aside for deep cleaning of rooms.
- Transition plans are still in effect.
- Bus routes will be split up based on geographic location of families. There is an A and B route. Classes will be mixed while on the bus. Masks will be required of all individuals while on the bus. Each student has an assigned seat. Every attempt will be made to keep an open space between students but may not be possible depending on the number of children on the bus. Each bus will be sanitized at the end of the day to include the handrail and any other high touch surface. At the end of the week, each bus will be thoroughly sanitized and cleaned.

(At this time, there is no provided bus transportation due to lack of drivers. Once this changes families will be notified.)

- COVID-19 screenings on the bus or at the center will not take place on a regular basis. 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 exhibiting symptoms will follow tribal policy.
- 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.
- Children who have been placed on quarantine are eligible to receive meals and activity bags from the ECC. Teachers or Family Service will follow up and ask if this is desired.
- **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. This will also allow us to notify the RCCHC that a family is coming for a test so they can get is set up and the process will go faster. If a family does not use the RCCHC as their primary provider, they will be asked to fill out a registration form to help the process move faster should they need to get tested. This is not mandatory, but it is recommended to help the process for testing go smoother and faster.**
- 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 extended enrollment and attendance flexibilities through this school year. While we encourage all children enrolled in center-based services to attend class every day, we understand that some families are not yet ready to send their child due to COVID concerns. Teachers or Family Service will maintain contact with families, but virtual classes and activity bags are not an option.
- Family style eating has been reestablished in the classroom. We feel that bringing family style eating back will promote many areas of development and skills, including fine motor, self-help, and food regulation. If a family chooses not to have their child participate in family style eating, they should contact their child's teacher and those meals will be prepared by the teacher before food is placed on the table for the children to serve themselves.
- Backpacks and other personal items (blankets) are allowed at school. However, we still discourage toys and other items from home.
- Playground spaces are no longer separated. We know that while outside, transmission of COVID-19 is significantly less and we want to return to focusing on building relationships between children, especially those moving on to kindergarten in the fall.
- 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 the need for close contact closures and quarantines.
- Management staff have taken on the role for giving breaks and teachers get moved to different rooms if they do not have class due to closures. All staff are tested weekly and must adhere to all COVID-19 requirements per tribal policy.
- 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.
- Unfortunately, the handheld emisters did not hold up and most are not working. 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 –
 - The center will shut down the affected area as soon as possible. These areas will be fogged at the end of the school day. This alleviates the need to close school in the middle of the day. Parents with children in the affected area will be notified to pick their children up. **(When buses are available, Head Start children will be driven home when possible.)**
 - Facilities and Maintenance will be contacted to fog affected areas at the end of the school day.
 - Areas and classrooms not affected will be able to remain open. Areas or classrooms that need to be fogged will be reopened after they have been cleared by the Red Cliff Community Health Center.
 - Notification will go out to all families 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 required to be tested (according to Red Cliff COVID policy) and quarantine, if appropriate, prior to returning to the center. The test can be administered by the Red Cliff Health Center or by a family's primary care provider. Tests given at the Red Cliff Health Center 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, the whole class must get tested (according to Red Cliff COVID policy) and be quarantined for 5 days from the last day of contact.

- If a student tests positive, the whole class and the teachers will need to be tested (according to Red Cliff COVID policy) and quarantined for 5 days. Return dates for children will be determined on a case by case basis based on tribal policy to have to be masked upon return during days 6-10. Parents, ECC health office, ECC Administration and possibly clinic staff will be involved in determining the return date.
- If a bus driver tests positive, transportation services from that bus will be on hold for at least 5 days. Students and monitors who ride that bus will need to be tested (according to Red Cliff COVID policy) and quarantined for 5 days.
- If it is determined that a child should be tested (according to Red Cliff COVID policy) and a family refuse, that child will not be allowed at the center for 5 days (Presumptive Positive).
- Staff PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) - All staff will be required to wear a mask while working unless in a non-shared space. The ECC will provide masks, gloves, and other required PPE to all staff. Staff are required to follow the Tribe's COVID plan/policy.
- 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.

- Facemasks will be removed at rest time, as these can be a strangulation and breathing hazard. Face masks are also removed to eat 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.)

- Children will be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms throughout the day, as is the case for all exclusionary illness. 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 children 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 has been resumed. Brushing 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 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
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.

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

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 be no longer 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.