

# COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

Revised February, 2023\*\*

The following policies and procedures have been developed to ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff, during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**\*\*Please note that the States and Federal Government have made minimal changes to the Covid guidelines since we last updated our Safety Plan for our Fall 2022 Season. As such, there are no current changes from our Fall 2022 Plan incorporated into our Spring 2023 Plan.**

We will continue to monitor state, school, and overnight camp and retreat center guidelines in New England and New York. As state and local guidelines are continually evolving our Spring 2023 Safety Plan will be updated as needed. **We will be working with each school to identify and implement any *specific field trip guidelines* set forth by individual schools or districts.**

**Policies and Precautions in the following areas will be taken to ensure the health and safety of all participants:**

## **Vaccinations:**

- All Nature's Classroom staff will be vaccinated against Covid-19.
- We recommend that all participants (students/teachers/chaperones/etc) receive the Covid-19 vaccine prior to arrival, if they are able.

## **Testing/Screening:**

- **All participants (students/teachers/chaperones/etc) attending the trip will need to acquire a negative Covid-19 rapid test upon departure from the school.**
  - *If you are unable to acquire rapid tests to do the testing at school, you can ask students to do at-home rapid tests instead.*
  - *Nature's Classroom can provide guidance for collecting test result information if you choose to ask students to take at-home tests.*
- While it is not required, we also recommend that all participants take an at-home rapid test ~24 hours prior to the trip. This will help reduce the number of last minute positive cases on arrival day.
- We ask that schools verify the negative test and negative exposure by filling out the "Health Screening" tab on the Student Groups" document that will be shared with you by your Program Coordinator.
- Students and/or chaperones may not be permitted to attend Nature's Classroom if they test positive for COVID-19, or have had an identified COVID-19 exposure within their household in the 10 days prior to their attendance (*please see our attendance policies*)

*outlined on page 3*). Nature's Classroom reserves the right to have the final say in who can or cannot attend.

**On Site Medical Monitoring:**

- The health of all visitors will be monitored throughout the day by trained NC staff.
- Rapid tests will be available for anyone experiencing symptoms.
- Any students or visiting adults who test positive for Covid-19 will be isolated and immediate arrangements made for them to leave Nature's Classroom.

**Mask Wearing:**

- Any student, teacher, chaperone or staff member who would like to wear a mask may do so and will be supported by Nature's Classroom.
- At this time we will not be requiring mask wearing in outdoor or indoor spaces, unless there is significant community spread in your school.
- If, during the week before your trip, there is significant community spread in your school, we may ask that you and your students wear masks while in communal indoor spaces at Nature's Classroom. We will never ask schools to mask while in their own cabins.
- Please note that masks *cannot* be worn at nighttime while sleeping.

**Cleaning and Disinfection:**

- Increased cleaning and disinfection will be done by cleaning staff. We will be partnering with each of our host sites to keep the facilities clean and safe for students, teachers, and staff while at Nature's Classroom.

**Hand Hygiene:**

- Students will be instructed to wash/sanitize their hands between activities, and prior to mealtime.
- Hand sanitizer or hand washing stations will be made available at multiple locations within each of our buildings including cabins.

**Transportation:**

- Schools are responsible for transportation and should mirror the guidelines set for daily transportation to school.
- If space on the bus is an issue we recommend renting a U-Haul truck to transport student and teacher belongings.

**Site Sharing:**

- Site sharing is up to the schools. We will do our best to schedule all schools based on their preferences, but specific dates cannot be guaranteed for schools asking for exclusivity.

**Policies regarding whether a person can or cannot attend Nature's Classroom**

*\*\*Please note while masking is possible throughout the day, students and chaperones sleep in shared cabin spaces and cannot stay masked or separated at night. This is why our policies may differ from policies at school.*

<p><b>Tests positive</b> within 10 days of the trip to Nature's Classroom</p>	<p>They may not attend until;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 10 full days have passed since testing positive.</li> <li>● They have been fever free for at least 24 hours without the help of fever-reducing medications.</li> <li>● Their symptoms have started to improve.</li> <li>● They test negative for covid-19 on a rapid test.</li> </ul>
<p><b>High risk transmission exposure to Covid-19</b> within 10 days prior to the trip to Nature's Classroom</p> <p><i>*High risk transmission exposure = a close household contact with covid, having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of a person with confirmed Covid-19 infection.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Depending on when they were exposed, past covid infection and other factors, they may be able to attend.</li> <li>● Students must be symptom free and test negative before coming to Nature's Classroom.</li> </ul>
<p><b>We learn about a high risk transmission exposure after they arrived at Nature's Classroom</b> <i>(example: A student arrives on Monday and on Tuesday we learn that a member of their household just tested positive)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Arrangements need to be made for that person to leave Nature's Classroom as soon as possible.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The reason they need to go home is to protect their cabin mates who cannot wear a mask while sleeping.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>They were exposed to covid while at Nature's Classroom</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anyone who had a "high risk transmission" exposure to the positive person must wear a mask while indoors and around other people while at NC (masking is not required while eating/drinking or inside the cabins).</li> <li>● Individuals who were exposed will be monitored for symptoms and will be tested if symptoms appear.</li> <li>● The school must notify the guardians of any students who have been exposed.</li> <li>● Anyone who tests positive for covid 19 will be isolated and sent home immediately.</li> </ul>