



COVID-19 Policies & Procedures Lake Superior Zoo School 2021-2022

Updated 9/28/2021

At the Lake Superior Zoo School, we recognize and appreciate the community we are in and know that everyone has a part to keep each other safe. The purpose of this document is to clearly communicate with parents their role in helping to keep our Zoo School community safe. Please read through this document completely. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Preschool Director via phone [218.730.4500 ext. 219] or email [lbudnik@lszoo.org or swilcox@lszoo.org].

These policies and procedures were informed by guidance from the MN Department of Health (MDH), MN Department of Human Services (DHS), St. Louis County Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These policies and procedures will change with evolving public health guidance. You will receive updates from the Preschool Director via email throughout the school year.

We anticipate that quarantines will still be possible for the foreseeable future, particularly because preschoolers are not yet eligible for vaccines. Depending on DHS recommendations, it's possible that Zoo School could be closed or that your child will be required to quarantine due to a positive case of COVID-19 this school year. We highly encourage your family to make back up childcare arrangements in case of quarantine or temporary closure.

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

- Drop off and pick up will occur outdoors as much as possible. Please be mindful of social distancing to respect families who may prefer you to be distanced. For example, please wait at least 6 feet from other families if waiting to scan the check-in/check-out QR code.
- Parents and siblings are required to go through health screening procedures upon arrival for drop off and pick up.
 - Adults and children over 5 years must wear a face covering during the health screening and while inside the building.
 - Temperature of child, adult(s), and sibling(s) will be taken by staff using a non-contact (temporal) thermometer. If it is not possible to take temperature outside of facility, parents will be asked to take a temperature of their child and anyone participating in drop-off or pick-up before coming to school.
 - Persons who have a fever of 100.4° (38.0°C) or above or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the school.
- Drop-off and pick-up times are flexible (7:30-9:00 AM and 3:00-5:30 PM).

- After screening, take your child inside the bathroom to wash their hands with soap and water. Please limit one family to the bathroom at a time.

Symptoms

Zoo School will be extra cautious with our sick policies during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially because none of the children in our care are currently eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Parents will be expected to be on alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick. Contact the Preschool Director if you have questions about whether your child can attend school or when they can return after symptoms.

Families must follow the [MDH Decision Tree](#) if their child or anyone in their household has COVID-19 symptoms. [This guide from MDH](#) has recommendations on who should get tested and when based on vaccination status.

- **Child stays home and pursues testing or quarantine if they have one “more common” symptom of COVID-19:** new cough or cough that gets worse, difficulty/hard time breathing, fever of 100.4 degrees F or higher, new loss of taste or smell
- **Child stays home and pursues testing or quarantine if they have two or more “less common” symptoms of COVID-19:** sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, extreme fatigue/feeling very tired, new severe/very bad headache, new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose
- If your child has had no symptoms for 24 hours and has a negative test, they may return to school.
- Please take a screenshot of your child’s negative test results and send it to the Preschool Director.

Family Members: If anyone in your household is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, your child must stay home from Zoo School. If the person with symptoms receives a negative test result, your child may return to school once everyone in the household no longer has any symptoms.

Exposure to a Positive Case of COVID-19

Families should follow the [MDH quarantine guidelines](#).

If your child or any member of your household is exposed to a known positive case of COVID-19, you must:

- Quarantine your child until you can test. If you do not test, your child must quarantine for 10 days (14 days encouraged).

- Test 5-7 days after exposure.
- If test is negative, child may return to Zoo School 7 days after exposure (10 days encouraged). Please take a screenshot of your child’s negative test results and send it to the Preschool Director.

If your child or another member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, contact the Preschool Director immediately. Confidentiality will be honored when communicating about a case or outbreak.

When to Return to School

Children who test negative for COVID-19 after being exposed to a positive case may return to Zoo School 7 days after exposure (10 days encouraged) if they have had no symptoms for at least 24 hours and no one else in their household tested positive. Please take a screenshot of your child’s negative test results and send it to the Preschool Director.

Children who do not get tested for COVID-19 may return to Zoo School after quarantining for 10 days (14 days encouraged).

Children who test positive for COVID-19 may return to Zoo School once they meet these criteria:

- They feel better and their symptoms are improving **and**
- 10 days since they tested positive **and**
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications

Please remember that our regular sick policies are still in effect. See the Parent Handbook for further sick policies.

Testing

Contact your child’s health care provider to arrange testing or see the [MDH website for testing locations](#) near you.

A molecular test, also called a PCR test, is done with a nasal or throat swab or saliva sample. It is the most accurate test for COVID-19. While you might get a result within 24 hours, it can take two or more days to get the test results.

Antigen, or “rapid” tests, give you a result in just minutes. However, they are not as accurate, especially for people who do not have symptoms.

Travel

To protect our Zoo School community of children, teachers, and families and to keep our school open, we appreciate you limiting travel with your child if possible and avoiding destinations that have high COVID-19 transmission rates. [CDC travel guidelines](#) for unvaccinated people include getting tested 3-5 days after travel and staying home for a full 7 days upon return from travel. While Zoo School is not requiring families to follow the CDC travel guidelines at this time, we appreciate everyone doing what they can to keep us all safe.

Communication Plan

- If a child, staff member, or volunteer tests positive, Lake Superior Zoo School will:
 - Notify St. Louis County Public Health and follow their direction.
 - Notify MDH and follow their direction.
 - Notify parents, staff, and volunteers via email if after hours, or by phone if during operating hours.
 - Notify DHS.
 - Communicate to families any necessary information as soon as possible to provide time to plan.
- If anyone in the child's family tests positive for COVID-19, the parent/guardian must communicate immediately with Zoo School staff. Confidentiality will be honored when communicating about a case or outbreak.

Financial Policies Relating to COVID-19 Closures: 2021-2022 School Year Session

Because we want to be responsive to changing circumstances and the needs of families, ongoing safety considerations, and the need to maintain organizational flexibility, the following financial policies will be in effect from September 2021-June 2022, and then re-evaluated for the summer session. In the event the Lake Superior Zoo School determines the need to close because of ill students or staff, official public health requirements, or for other pandemic-related reasons *or* in the event the Lake Superior Zoo School determines the need to turn children away due to exposure to ill students or staff, official health requirements, or for other pandemic-related reasons at the Lake Superior Zoo School:

- Lake Superior Zoo School will issue refunds for any COVID-19 related closures or quarantine or illness due to exposure to ill students or staff at the Lake Superior Zoo School at the prorated amount of \$45/day (\$40.50/day for discounted tuition) for a maximum cumulative total of 15 school days between September 2021-June 2022. No refunds will be issued for closures in excess of this amount during the period of September 2021-June 2022.

- For accounting purposes, full tuition amounts will continue to be due the first of the month. Any refunds or credits will be issued upon the school's re-opening following a closure.
- If an individual child misses preschool for quarantine or illness unrelated to exposure to ill students or staff at Lake Superior Zoo School, Lake Superior Zoo School will not issue refunds.
- The non-refundable deposit will remain non-refundable.
- You may choose to keep your child home at any point and continue paying tuition to hold their spot. We continue to require 30 days written notification of withdrawal.
- We understand that COVID-19 has negatively impacted many families' financial situations and we welcome individual families to reach out about financial policies at any time.

Other measures the Zoo School is taking to keep your child safe:

- Staff and volunteers will wear face coverings while inside and outside when within 6 feet of your children.
- Handwashing will take place throughout the day and proper techniques will be taught and reinforced.
- Children's rest time cots will be spaced apart as much as possible and children will sleep head to toe.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and shared program materials and toys will take place routinely.
- Children will spend as much time outside as possible.
- Children will avoid indoor public spaces during zoo operating hours.