

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

COVID-19 Program Participant Guidelines

(Current as of 5/1/2023 - This policy may be reassessed based on changing condition)

Our programs are designed to be fun and engaging and above all safe. The COVID-19 program guidelines below are designed to help protect everyone as we meet the strict health and safety requirements of the CDC and our state. Please take the time to read the information below thoroughly. We have revised our policies to reflect the reduced risk of COVID-19, and may change our guidelines to reflect new guidance from CDC and Massachusetts, or if there is a resurgence of COVID-19.

The Hitchcock Center highly encourages all program participants ages 6 years and older to receive an updated bivalent COVID-19 vaccine in order to ensure that our program can be as safe as possible for all participants.

We require all vaccinations required by the Town of Amherst's Board of Health for Public Schools, which currently require vaccinations for COVID-19 all participants age 16 and older..

We will be following these [Mass Gov Guidelines](#) regarding quarantine. If participant has had:

Close Contact:

If you have been exposed to someone with COVID, you do not need to be quarantined as long as you remain asymptomatic, regardless of your vaccination status. You must wear a mask any time you are around others inside your home or indoors in public for the 10 days following your exposure, unless you are unable to mask.

If you were exposed and develop symptoms (see list below) at any time, isolate and take a rapid antigen test and stay home until you know the result. If the result is positive, follow isolation protocols. If your test is negative or if you have remained asymptomatic, take another test on day 6.

A Positive Test - If you test positive, follow isolation guidance. For more information, please see CDC COVID-19 Exposure Guidance.

COVID-19 Symptoms

If a participant (including vaccinated participants), has had a fever above 100 degrees or exhibits one or more symptoms indicating the possibility of COVID-19 infection they cannot attend our programs, and we request a negative COVID test before returning to our program.

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches

- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
 - Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Nausea, vomiting, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Headache, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies), when in combination with other symptoms
- If a participant has tested positive for COVID-19 within 5 days of attending a Hitchcock program, please contact Billy Spitzer, Executive Director (billy@hitchcockcenter.org) or Colleen Kelley, Education Director (colleen@hitchcockcenter.org), or for summer camp Jeffrey Mazur, Camp Director.
 - If a child becomes sick while attending a program, the parent or caregiver will be notified immediately and asked to arrange for the child's pick up as soon as possible. If the participant is an adult, they will be asked to go home and seek medical advice.
 - Hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer is required when beginning a program, prior to and after eating, after using the bathroom, as well as other times when advised. Participants will be asked to use hand sanitizer during times when hand-washing is not available and handwashing is advised. A Hitchcock Center staff member will provide hand sanitizer if the participant has not brought their own. Parents and caregivers of child participants are asked to give their child permission to use hand sanitizer when asked by a Hitchcock Center staff member.
 - All program participants are expected to bring their own snacks, food, water, sunblock, bug spray and proper attire including hats and footwear. The Hitchcock Center will not be providing any of these items to share. Our indoor water bottle refill station will be available to be used by camp.

Mask Usage:

- Participants will be required to bring their own masks. If the participant does not have a mask, and it is a hardship to get one, please contact the Hitchcock Center so that we can make arrangements to provide one. If a mask becomes dirty or wet it should be replaced with a clean one as soon as possible.
- The Hitchcock Center supports those who would like to mask at any time.
- Indoors - Program participants will be encouraged but not required to mask if there is an indoor group activity.
- Outdoors - Masks will not be required.
- If we use public transportation everyone will be encouraged but not required to use masks.
- For field trips, everyone will be encouraged but not required to use masks and windows will be open for van rides.

Thank you for taking these guidelines seriously.