

After School Time COVID-19 Protocols

NECC has successfully been operating youth programs in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic since June of 2020, including being a certified Emergency Child Care Facility last school year. We feel very confident following and implementing COVID-19 health and sanitation protocols. Protocols are subject to change depending on local health authority guidelines and the trajectory of the ongoing pandemic.

Masks: All After School Time participants and staff will wear masks. Exceptions include if participants require a break from their mask, in which case they will be more than 6-feet from all other participants and staff, and during snack time, in which case all participants not podding together will be 6-feet apart from all other participants and staff. Masks are currently required for all people entering the NECC, including for parents when picking up their children.

Vaccines: The COVID-19 vaccine is mandatory for all NECC After School Time staff.

Daily health checks: All After School Time staff undergo daily health checks to ensure staff do not come to the NECC if they are sick. We ask parents to do the same with their children, as children are required to stay home from After School Time if they are feeling at all under the weather. Additionally, staff will check-in with children daily about how they are feeling, if they are feeling sick at all, and if they have a new cough or fever.

Physical distancing: While we do plan activities with COVID-19 and physical distancing in mind, meaning we look for opportunities to keep children distanced as much as possible, we do not require physical distancing of 6-feet between children in After School Time. However, we do encourage children to keep some space between themselves and others and anytime masks are off (snack time) physical distancing of 6-feet is strictly enforced. We believe the stable cohort model, masks, and frequent handwashing will keep us as safe as possible. Children who are siblings, from the same household, or “podding” together (meaning they already spend time in close proximity together and unmasked) do not have to physically distance from one another.

Handwashing & sanitizing: Handwashing and sanitizing will happen frequently throughout After School Time. Kids will be required to wash hands upon arriving at NECC, before and after eating snack, after using the restroom, and after any other messy activities that may take place. Hand sanitizer will also be used throughout the day.

Sanitation protocols: NECC follows rigorous sanitization protocols to ensure spaces, materials, toys, and equipment are kept as clean as possible to ensure safe usage. If you want more information about our sanitization protocols, please reach out to Nohea at youth@necommunitycenter.org

Record keeping: NECC keeps diligent records of all After School Time daily participants and staff, so in the case of an illness or COVID-19 exposure, all exposed kids and staff will be properly notified.

Open communication and Health & Safety Plans: We have found that the best policy is to be open and honest with all parents and staff regarding possible illnesses or outbreaks. Children are bound to get sick, but different precautions must be taken regarding COVID-19. While keeping children's confidentiality protected, we will notify parents and staff about any potential illnesses or outbreaks that take place at After School Time. In these cases, the sick child stays home from After School Time until symptoms resolve and usually, until they test negative for COVID-19. In some cases, we will cancel After School Time depending on safety concerns. You can always count on us to keep you updated and in the loop while we follow necessary Health & Safety Emergency COVID-19 plans to keep our community as safe as possible.

If you have any questions or want any further information about NECC's After School Time COVID-19 protocols, please contact Nohea Waiwai'ole youth@necommunitycenter.org