

Outdoor Classroom Contagious Illnesses Policy - 2025

Outdoor Classroom has continued to monitor the instances of COVID and other respiratory illnesses (i.e., RSV, flu, etc.) and gastrointestinal illnesses, i.e., Norovirus, Rotavirus, etc.) to establish best practices for our programs and the communities we serve. Our approach aligns with CDC recommendations to mitigate the spread of such illnesses.

COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses continue to pose a public health risk, therefore preventative measures are critical to a safe (and fun!) trip. These measures include:

- Pre-trip rapid testing for individuals with two or more COVID symptoms.
- Those with contagious illness symptoms should not attend until they recover.
- Participants and chaperones must be fever-free without medication 24 hours prior to the trip. (A fever is identified as 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.)
- We provide on-site COVID testing for symptomatic individuals by our medical personnel; refusal may result in the individual being sent home to safeguard the health of all participants and staff.
- Those with gastrointestinal illness symptoms i.e. vomiting, diarrhea, severe stomach cramps, etc. must be symptom-free for 48 hours before the trip. If any participant is exhibiting symptoms, a call will be made home to have them picked up from the program. Please note that hand sanitizer is NOT effective against Norovirus. Regular hand washing and cleaning of surfaces is necessary to slow the spread of the virus. In addition, if a household member has recently had this virus, the likelihood of it spreading to other members of the family is extremely high.

Outdoor Classroom is committed to collaborating with schools to establish robust trip protocols and offer guidance on effective communication strategies with families to support adherence to these recommendations. These proactive measures are paramount to ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants, including students, chaperones, and our Outdoor Classroom team.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Health and Wellness Director, Kim Perkinson at kim@outdoorclassroom.com. We appreciate your support in prioritizing the health and safety of everyone involved in Outdoor Classroom.