

**COVID 19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR
SOUTH COAST ESD
EARLY INTERVENTION /
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION
August 2022**

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EI/ECSE Protocol for Face Coverings – Staff and Students

STAFF

- Because EI/ECSE children under 5 are medically fragile and/or unable to be vaccinated, staff are required to wear masks when working in close proximity with a student, i.e. within three feet for any given activity or service.
 - For example, please wear a mask during eating routines, hygiene routines, suctioning, etc.
- If students are not present, staff can choose to wear a mask or not.
 - Wearing a mask anywhere is always permissible.
 - You have the right to wear a mask in any school and/or ESD setting,
 - Please always respect each individual's choice to wear a mask.

ECSE in non-SCESD settings:

- If Head Start programs are still requiring mask, all SCESD EI/ECSE staff visiting Head Start classrooms will have to wear a mask while at Head Start.
- For ECSE classrooms in school buildings, when not within 3 feet of students, staff will follow the school building's protocols for masking.

STUDENTS

- Face coverings are not required to be utilized for those children under age 5 in EI/ECSE program facilities or classrooms.

ECSE Plan for Daily Systematic Cleaning of Classrooms

- Routine cleaning and disinfecting is key to maintaining a safe environment for faculty, students, and staff.
- Cleaning removes dirt and most germs and is usually done with soap and water.
- Disinfecting kills most germs, depending on the type of chemical, and only when the chemical product is used as directed on the label.
- ECSE designated staff will be trained and required to: disinfect toys, desk/tables, student cubbies, and any shared materials using approved cleaning disinfectants such as Lysol, Hepastat, etc. in between each daily class session or before the next time students will use the material.

To be completed after each session/cohort of students:

Using disinfectant provided by SCESD (wipes or spray with paper towel) and gloves, **after each ECSE session/cohort**, trained staff will clean/disinfect:

- All door knobs
- All table tops
- All student cubbies
- All chairs
- All other common touch points (faucets, light switches, etc.)
- Any shared materials (utensils, school supplies)

Using disinfectant provided by SCESD (wipes or spray with paper towel) and gloves, **at the end of the school day**, trained staff will clean/disinfect:

- Repeat list of cleaning tasks for after each ECSE session (above)
- Sweep floors
- Sanitize dishes or other dishwasher safe toys/tools in dishwasher

Other:

- ECSE Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily by SCESD Maintenance

ECSE Isolation Room Procedure for Students/Staff

- Students and staff who report or develop **primary symptoms of COVID 19** must be isolated in a designated isolation area in the school, with adequate space and staff supervision and symptom monitoring by a school nurse, other school-based health care provider or school staff until they are able to go home. Anyone providing supervision and symptom monitoring must wear a face mask.
- Parent or emergency contact must be called and the child should be picked up at the earliest convenience.
- School nurse and health staff in close contact with symptomatic individuals (less than three feet) should wear a medical-grade face mask. Other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may be needed depending on symptoms and care provided. Consult a nurse or health care professional regarding appropriate use of PPE. Any PPE used during care of a symptomatic individual should be properly removed and disposed of prior to exiting the care space.
- After removing PPE, hands should be immediately cleaned with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, hands can be cleaned with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60-95% alcohol.
- If able to do so safely, a symptomatic individual should wear a face covering.
- To reduce fear, anxiety, or shame related to isolation, provide a clear explanation of procedures, including use of PPE and handwashing.
- Staff and students who are ill must stay home from school and must be sent home if they become ill at school, particularly if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Symptomatic staff or students should be evaluated and seek COVID-19 testing from their regular physician or through the local public health authority.

Primary COVID-19 symptoms:

- Cough
- Temperature of 100.4 oF or higher
- Chills
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

ECSE Plan for Systematic Disinfection of Shared Learning Spaces (Gym)

- Prior to entering a shared learning space, all staff and students will either wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol or use hand sanitizer.
- After use of a shared learning space, ECSE staff will:
 - Disinfect any toy or item utilized during learning/play time
 - If item cannot be disinfected after immediate use, staff will put that item away in a location designated for items that cannot be used until disinfected (in a bin labelled "to be disinfected")

EI/ECSE Plan for Ventilation and Air Flow In Classrooms/Therapy Rooms/Offices

- Ventilation is a primary tool to reduce viral spread indoors and promote a healthy learning environment. Optimization of indoor air quality can provide benefits extending beyond mitigating infectious disease.

In addition to the SCESD's HVAC system, ECSE classroom staff will:

- Increase circulation of outdoor air by keeping at least one window open at all times when children are present.
- Clean the air that is recirculated indoors by using effective filtration methods (HEPA filters) to remove virus containing particles from the air (in classrooms, therapy rooms, and offices).

ECSE Plan for Safe Snack Time

- SCESD ECSE program may maintain the activity of “Snack Time” only if abiding by these rules:
 - Snack will not be served be “family style” nor “buffet style”
 - Children will wash with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol prior to engaging in snack routine.
 - ECSE staff members will help monitor the disinfecting of any shared serving utensils such as spoons, pitchers, etc. after snack session
 - Any ECSE staff member involved in food prep for snack time will wear a face covering and gloves during preparation.
 - Any ECSE staff member involved in serving snack will wear a face mask and gloves during serving.
 - No sharing of food or drink will be allowed between children during snack time.
 - Children will wash with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol at completion of snack time.
 - Staff will also clean/disinfect snack time table and “touch-points” between snack groups.

ECSE Protocol for Safe Staff Support of Student Restroom Routines

- When supporting a child through a hygiene task such as hand washing, ECSE staff will:
 - Wear face covering

- When supporting a child through a restroom toileting routine, ECSE staff will:
 - Wear face covering
 - Wear gloves if assisting child in toileting routine

- When 1:1 Nurse and IA are both required to support a child in a restroom routine and the routine involves a transfer to a changing table, ECSE staff will :
 - Wear face covering
 - Wear gloves if assisting child in toileting routine
 - Wear disposable paper gown if high risk for bodily fluid contact

**EI/ECSE Process for Therapy Appointments Onsite
and for EI/ECSE Evaluations/Intake Appointments**

Hand Hygiene

- Prior to entering a therapy or evaluation space, all adults and children will either wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol. Hand sanitizer will be available to staff, parent, and child throughout the interaction.

Masks/PPE

- Because EI/ECSE children under 5 are medically fragile and/or unable to be vaccinated, staff are required to wear masks when working in close proximity with a student, i.e., within three feet for any given activity or service.
 - For example, please wear a mask during eating routines, hygiene routines, suctioning, etc.
- If children are not present, staff can choose to wear a mask or not.
 - Wearing a mask anywhere is always permissible.
 - You have the right to wear a mask in any school and/or ESD setting,
 - Please always respect each individual's choice to wear a mask.
- In such tasks as changing a student, helping with toileting or feeding, providing instruction or therapy that requires physical assistance, supporting students' safe transitions from one place to another, or working with students who have behavior challenges requiring hands on support for safety, EI/ECSE staff member may choose to wear appropriate agreed upon PPE provided by SCESD in addition to the face mask (eye protections, disposable gloves, gown, etc.) . PPE such as gloves or gowns will be changed in between each therapy session.

Cleaning

- Upon ending the appointment, the EI/ECSE staff member will clean any surface that was utilized using the provided disinfecting cleaner.
- Any item, toy, manipulative used during the session will be sanitized prior to the next use.

Ventilation

In addition to the SCESD's HVAC system:

- At least one window open when children are present.
- Air filtration device will be turned on during therapy/evaluation session.

- **Hand Hygiene:** All adults, prior to any hands-on therapy with the child, will wash hand with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60–95% alcohol content), covering all surfaces of the hands and rubbing them together until dry. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.

- **Cleaning of Materials:** Upon ending the home visit, with permission of the parent, the EI /ECSE specialist will assist in cleaning any surface that was utilized using SCESD provided disinfecting cleaner. Any item, toy, manipulative used during the home visit will be sanitized prior to next session.