



# Wild Roots Protocols

## 2020-21

*Last updated July 18, 2020*

*Wild Roots Summer Programs offer 100% outdoor, nature-based programming for children 3 to 7 years old, with 22 years of experience. Community safety and well being is our top priority.*

### Program Design and Operation

Groupings, Group Size, and Ratios

Locations

Social Distancing

Adults

Children

Hygiene

Hand washing and sanitizing supplies & protocols

No shared materials

No shared materials or tools will be provided throughout the program.

Any materials provided will be exclusively for use by individual children (i.e. sandpaper squares, beads to be used in nest, etc.).

Food and water

Children will bring their own food from home, only.

Personal Belongings

First Aid Protocols

### Preparation and Monitoring

Training Staff

Program Protocols

Additional Training

Preparing Parents

Health Monitoring

### Closure



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## Program Design and Operation

### Locations

Locations are chosen to meet the following criteria:

- Reduce impact on any one space, avoid congestion.
- Enough space for children to play in wide open, spread out areas, with open free flow of air.
- Parking, drop off, and pick up areas have enough space to prevent bottlenecks/congestion of people attending our programs and other community members using the space.
- Outdoor setting that allows plenty of space for community members to use open spaces and keeps our groups of children easily out of their way, and vice versa.

### Groupings, Group Size, and Ratios

- Wild Roots will only be open to children residing locally.
- Siblings and children who share a household will be kept in the same groups whenever possible.
- Groups/Classes will be maintained together as stable groups.
- Teaching staff will remain with same group in the following configurations:
  - Preschool classes will consist of 12 children per day (with a maximum of 16 children in each cohort) and two teachers
  - Kindergarten classes will be a cohort of 12-14 children maximum and 2-3 teachers.
- Class groups will not commingle.



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### Social Distancing and Masks Wearing

We recognise the importance of physical distancing to avoid and/or reduce transmission and spread of SARS-CoV-2. We also recognize that the care of young children often requires close contact with caregiving adults.

#### Adults

- Drop off and Pick Up
  - Reduce congestion
    - Stagger drop off/pick up times.
    - Parents and Staff will adhere to firm physical distancing protocols among adults at drop off/pick up.
    - Parents and Staff will wear masks at drop off/pick up.
    - We ask that parents do all they can to ensure no one outside of their regular household/family cohort pick up or drop off children.
      - Should this become impossible, the next best option is another parent in the class cohort.
- Mask wearing
  - Teachers will wear their masks:
    - At pick up and drop off
    - When in close contact with a child or children (e.g. handwashing, changing clothes, comforting, administering first aid, etc.)
    - When preparing/handling food

#### Children

While location and programming is designed to provide maximum opportunity for open physical space, young children have unique social/emotional, as well as pragmatic, physical needs that preclude strict physical distancing with their caregivers. We have developed the following



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protocols in an attempt to address all of these needs to the best of our ability.

- Locations chosen for maximum open space (away from trails/spaces frequented by other members of the community).
- Each child will be provided an individual “nest,”
  - Clearly defined individual space, made of sticks, grasses, etc.at least 6ft apart from any other nest
- Said “nests will serve the following functions:
  - A place for children to keep personal belongings (i.e. backpacks)
  - A place to physically be during group activities such as circle and story times
  - A place to eat meals
  - A place to retreat for resting/quiet

## Hygiene

### Hand washing and sanitizing supplies & protocols

- Staff will have ample hand washing supplies on hand.
- Each staff member will carry hand sanitizer.
- Staff will teach, model, and reinforce handwashing skills.
- When handling said supplies, staff will sanitize hands before .
- When handling said supplies, staff will sanitize supplies and hands after use.
- Hands will be washed or sanitized before and after physically assisting a child with any needs that require direct contact with a child or their belongings.
- Hands will be washed before and after eating.
- Hands will be washed after bathrooming.
- Hands will be washed after coughing, sneezing, nose wiping, or wiping of tears.



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### Mask wearing

*Children (ages 2 ½ to 6 yr. old) will not be required to wear masks throughout the day, generally speaking. We intend to work with the masks in a playful and relaxed manner, giving the children the example and practice of using masks as a simple act of community care.*

- Children will need to have a mask with them at school
- Children will be asked to wear a mask in any situation that would cause us to be in a tight group for a period of time, or in any situation that requires us to be in close contact with others outside of our cohort. (We do not anticipate such events, and work actively to avoid them, but intend to be prepared in the event that avoiding such a situation becomes impossible for any reason.)

### Shared materials

- Shared materials or tools will generally be avoided throughout the program.
  - Any shared materials that are introduced will be sanitized frequently.
- Every attempt will be made to ensure materials provided will be exclusively for use by individual children (i.e. sandpaper squares, beads to be used in nest, etc.).
  - Individual children will have a private receptacle at Wild Roots, in which individual projects and materials will be stored.

### Food and water

- Food will be provided by Wild Roots for a mid-morning snack.
  - Food will be handled after washing hands thoroughly, and while wearing a mask.
  - Extreme care will be given to ensure heightened hygiene



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- Individual children and adults will have their own cup and napkin, that will be stored in a pouch belonging to the individual child. Said cups and napkins will only be used by the individual they belong to.
- Cups and napkins will be cleaned regularly and with great care.
- Children will bring their own lunch from home,
  - Kept in their backpack, in “nests”
  - Eaten within the physical distancing “nest” only
  - Sharing of food will be prohibited
  - Any uneaten food, or food waste, will be replaced into individual child’s food containers
- Children will bring their own water bottles.
  - Staff will have extra water to refill children’s bottles without touching of receptacles.
  - Whenever possible, children will be asked to open and hold own bottles for staff to refill.
  - Before and after assisting with such tasks, staff will wash or sanitize hands.

### Personal Belongings

- Clearly labeled, personal use items only
  - Backpack
  - Food
  - Water bottle
  - Change of clothes
  - Mask
- Items children might be tempted to share will not be permitted (binoculars, field guides, toy, etc.).

### First Aid Protocols

- If a child requires first aid, staff will provide proper administration.
- Immediately following the administration of first aid, staff and child will wash hands, and any area that has been in contact with another person.



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- Used first aid materials will be kept in a sealed plastic bag and disposed of properly at the end of the program day.

## Preparation and Monitoring

### Training Staff

*Staff will be trained in the following areas:*

#### Program Protocols

- Record keeping and management
- Drop off and pick up policies
- Basic health screening
- Enhanced hygiene protocols
- Temperature readings for children
- Policy and procedure in case of child showing symptoms during program

#### Additional Training

- At least one member of program staff will complete contact tracing training.  
<https://www.coursera.org/learn/covid-19-contact-tracing?edocomorp=covid-19-contact-tracing>

### Preparing Parents

- Protocols and requirements webinar; required attendance of at least one parent/guardian per family.
- Protocols and requirements in writing; received and signed by parents/guardians.



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### Health Monitoring

- Daily: Check for signs and symptoms - Teaching staff will screen all staff, participants, and families by asking all parents/guardians about any symptoms (primarily fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing or other signs of illness within the last 24 hours) – that they, or someone in their homes, might have.
- Staff will ask individuals if they have had any exposure to another individual with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- Staff will take temperatures of all children at drop off with a no touch forehead thermometer.
- As a daily best practice, staff will document and track all known incidents of possible exposure to COVID-19 and keep these records for 30 days.
- Staff are encouraged to stay home with sick pay if they are feeling sick.
- Substitute staff readily available if a programmed staff becomes ill.
- If a child shows any signs or symptoms throughout the day, that child will be kept physically separate from the group, the child's caregiver will be called, and the child will be immediately sent home.
- If anyone in a child or teaching staff's household tests positive for COVID, said child and/or staff will not return until 14 days of quarantine have passed
- Contact tracing will be implemented based on the staff notes and family information
- If a child or staff member tests positive, the class cohort will close until such time that the period of quarantine for exposed individuals and the period of required isolation ends.
- If a child or staff member has a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, that individual will remain home. All parents will be notified (individual privacy maintained).
- Should an exclusion occur based on signs and symptoms, such as fever, families in that cohort will be asked to take care to avoid





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contact within the community outside of the cohort.

## Closure

- If at any time the County moves back into a shelter at home order, programs will close immediately.
- If a child or teaching staff tests positive for COVID-19, that group will be notified and closed for a period of quarantine immediately.
- In the event that Public Health officials recommend a change in protocols or closure, we will work closely to ensure that community health and well being are a top priority.