

COVID-19 Health Policies for Group Programs Effective September 1, 2023

In accordance with the most recent Safety Standards issued by local health officials and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), all volunteers and learners participating in English At Large (EAL) Group Programs or attending any EAL sanctioned events or activities will adhere to the following procedures and guidelines:

- Effective September 1, 2023, proof of vaccination is not required to attend or participate in EAL programs and activities
- Masking is optional, unless required by current protocols for COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure

Sick policy:

Volunteers and learners should not attend EAL programs or activities if they feel unwell in any way, or if they live with someone who is sick. For the health of all attendees, group facilitators should ask anyone who appears unwell to leave the group setting, and to alert EAL staff of such an occurrence.

Exposure to COVID-19:

Understanding how COVID-19 spreads and the factors that can increase or decrease that risk is important. Volunteers and learners are encouraged to use the [risk assessment chart](#) provided by the CDC to determine the likelihood that they were infected when around a person with COVID-19. If multiple factors (meaning more than one) indicate higher transmission risk, you should follow the steps for what to do if you are exposed. Chart: [Factors that Lower or Increase Transmission of COVID-19](#)

EAL will continue to follow guidance from the CDC in regard to isolation and masking due to diagnosis or exposure to COVID-19: [CDC Guidelines: What To Do if You Were Exposed to COVID-19](#).

Exposure Without Symptoms:

- Volunteers and learners who have been exposed to COVID-19 are required to mask for 10 days, and are encouraged to follow testing protocols outlined by the CDC. Note: this policy applies to everyone, regardless of vaccination status

COVID-19 Diagnosis/Positive Test:

- Volunteers and learners who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate for 5 days (from the date of symptoms, if present, or without symptoms, from the date the test was administered), mask for 10 days, and are encouraged to follow testing protocols outlined by the CDC

Reporting Illness:

Volunteers: notify EAL staff of absence if a substitute facilitator is needed.

Learners: notify group facilitator when absent for any reason.

Note: in accordance with CDC guidelines, EAL group programs will not be suspended if a participant reports symptoms or a positive test for COVID-19. If a facilitator feels that circumstances occurred during a group meeting that did put participants at high risk, they are encouraged to contact EAL staff.

Use of Technology

EAL programs are most effective and impactful for our learners when delivered in person. All group programs will meet in public spaces and take place in person.

This policy is in addition to any policies or procedures mandated by our program partners and/or the local community. This policy will remain in effect until further notice.

Please direct any questions to Maureen Willis, Executive Director at ed@englishatlarge.org