

Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center

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September 2021



Dear FFEEC Families,

I hope you and your families are doing well and staying healthy! We continue to monitor the CDC & NJ DOH recommendations for Covid-19 and we will adjust accordingly.

First and foremost, we will continue to use groups/cohorts to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. At Fernbrook Farms, our groups will be the Saplings, Pre-K/K, LLHS (up to three groups), ULHS, and Afterschool Programs. Within each group, students will be organized by age and grade as we have in years past. Each group will be able to comingle within the group with optional masks\*, but they will not do activities with other groups. In the event of inclement weather, each group will have a designated indoor/covered space that is their own<sup>^</sup>. The use of groups/cohorts means that if there is a positive case on campus, that we will only have to quarantine one group.

Furthermore, we ask families & staff to do a self-screening process prior to attending classes and continue to self-screen throughout the duration of your attendance in our programs. The self-screening form is available on our website and is for your records. We are all in this together and ***it is very important that we self-monitor and stay home if we are sick*** or experiencing even the subtlest of symptoms.

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Here are some new components for the fall of 2021 to our protocols:

-Masks are optional for parents during drop-off/pick-up following the guidance about being outside.

-Parents are welcome to stay and visit the animals, play in the barnyard, or walk the trails. As always, we ask that you give the students space for their classes and to not disturb them while they are in class.

Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to email me.

Thank you,

Brian Kuser

Education Director

\*For Upper-Level (ages 12-14) Homeschool students, we are currently asking that students wear a mask while they are indoors. We plan to be outside all fall and as much as possible in the winter, but some activities require us to be indoors with heat during the colder winter months. Please bring a mask and be prepared to wear it indoors when attending in the winter.

<sup>^</sup> Our large Kerney Barn space is large enough and provides a lot of air flow to have two groups separated by more than 6 feet.