



Thorne Nature Experience

COVID-19 Health Policies and Procedures

(Last updated: 5/21/2021. This document will be reviewed and updated at least monthly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure compliance with all Boulder County Public Health and Colorado State Child Care Licensing guidelines.)

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns related to Thorne's COVID-19 Health Policies and Procedures, or need to report possible symptoms or exposure to COVID-19 before, during, or immediately following a Thorne program, please contact the Program Director for your Thorne program.

Nature Learning Pods

Paul Humes, School Programs Manager

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Summer Camp

Carrie Riesberg, Erin Saunders, Paul Humes- Summer Camp Managers

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Thorne Nature Preschool

Mattie Schuler, Preschool Director

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INTRODUCTION

The health and safety of our participants and staff continues to be Thorne's top priority. The following policies and procedures are designed to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Thorne's COVID-19 Health Policies and Procedures will be the governing health policy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Thorne's standard illness policy will be used as indicated in the CDPHE COVID-19 guidance.

Thorne's COVID-19 health policies and procedures were originally developed with guidance from Boulder County Public Health & Environment (BCPHE), CO Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), CO State Emergency Operations Center, Colorado Office of Early Childhood - Department of Human Services (CDHS), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the American Camp Association. Thorne will continue to follow CDPHE and local health department guidelines throughout the pandemic to adapt policies and procedures related to COVID-19. Thorne will refer to CDPHE guidelines and will consult with Boulder County Public Health as needed when making decisions related to program policies, closures, exclusion, isolation, quarantine, and general health and wellness. See the [CDPHE Cases and Outbreaks in Child Care and Schools](#) guidance for more information on specific protocols.

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@thornenature.org, (303) 499-3647, or contact the Program Director for your Thorne program.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Resources:

[Boulder County Covid Updates](#)

[How sick is too sick?](#)

[At-home Covid 19 symptoms screening tool](#)

[Return to Learn guidelines](#)

[What happens to the contacts?](#)

Pre-Program

Pre-Program Communication

- Two weeks prior to the start of a program, parents/caregivers will be emailed Thorne's COVID-19 Health Policies and Procedures, Thorne's standard illness policy, and Thorne's COVID-19 Pre-Program Screening Questions.

COVID-19 Pre-Program Screening Questions

- During the week before the participant's program, parents/caregivers are required to contact the Director for your Thorne program for further guidance, if they answer yes to any of the following questions:
 - **Does the participant have any of the following symptoms?**
 - New loss of taste or smell (critical symptom)
 - Fever 100.4 F or above
 - Chills
 - New or worsening cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle aches or body aches
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - **Has the participant been around a household member or close contact with a positive case of COVID-19 in the last two weeks?**
 - **Close Contact | A person who:**
 - Was within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 (even if they did not have symptoms) for at least 15 minutes total.
 - Provided care for someone who is sick with COVID-19.
 - Was a household contact of someone who is sick with COVID-19.
 - Had direct physical contact with someone who is sick with COVID-19.
 - Shared eating or drinking utensils with someone who is sick with COVID-19.
 - Got exposed to respiratory droplets from someone who is sick with COVID-19 (through sneezing, coughing, shouting, etc.).
 - Was in the same class/cohort as a person with COVID-19.
 - **Siblings and Household Contacts:**
 - **If a household member has COVID-19:** The siblings and other household contacts of people with COVID-19 will likely be considered close contacts because they often live in the same house as the person who has COVID-19. *They will stay home for a 10-day quarantine.* Public health may recommend children get tested for COVID-19 about 7 days after they were in contact with their sick sibling/household contact.
 - **If a household member was exposed:** The household members of people who are home for *quarantine*

because they were exposed to COVID-19 do not need to stay home or be tested unless the sibling/household contact in quarantine develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. Parents should closely monitor all of their children and themselves for symptoms.

During Program

To ensure the safety and well-being of all participants and their families, Thorne encourages all participants and the members of their direct family to follow state and local orders and recommendations related to COVID-19. If a participant or direct family member has for any reason not been in compliance with local orders or recommendations for the two weeks prior to or during a Thorne program, please contact the Director of your Thorne program (contact information is on page 1-2 and in program addendum) so that we can assess risks and minimize the potential for spreading COVID-19 to other Thorne participants and their families.

The following additional resources may be useful in helping your family to develop its own plan to stay as safe as possible from catching or spreading COVID-19:

[Boulder County Public Health COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Colorado COVID-19 Website](#)

Each Day Before the Program

- **Parents/caregivers will be asked to read through the pre-program screening questions and take the participant's temperature each day before the program.** Parents/caregivers are required to keep the participant home if they are sick, starting to feel sick, or if they have a fever. If a participant has any Covid 19 symptoms, they must stay home.
 - Please refer to the CDPHE "[At Home COVID-19 Symptom Screening Tool for Parents and Staff](#)" and the "[How Sick is Too Sick](#)" document if you have any question about if your child should be kept home from the program.
- If a participant does not attend a program because of an illness, parents/caregivers must notify the Director of your Thorne program (contact information is on page 1-2 and in program addendum). In the message, please include the participant's first and last name and a detailed list of symptoms.
- Parents/caregivers should apply sunscreen to the participant within 30 minutes of drop-off each day to minimize the need for teacher/participant contact.
- Participants should use the restroom at home prior to arrival to the program to limit use of shared restrooms.

Arrival At Program

Daily health check for participants, staff, and volunteers:

- Upon arrival, parents or caregivers must sign-in the Thorne participants via the paper sign-in form
- On this form, there will be a section to answer Yes or No in regard to if the participant has any of stated Covid symptoms, if the participant has been around a household member or close contact with COVID-19 in the last two weeks, and if the participant has completed the at-home screening
- Participants who answer YES to **any** of the health screening questions will be required to go home. Thorne Staff will refer to CDPHE guidelines, communicate with CDPHE for further guidance if necessary, and follow up within 24 hours on next steps. See **COVID-19 Illness Policy** below.

During the Program

- Health Precautions
 - All participants are taught the process to sneeze into the fold of their arms
 - Staff will teach and remind participants to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Thorne participants will bring individual lunches and snacks and will not share food.
- Hand washing/sanitizing
 - Hand washing or use of hand sanitizer for all staff and participants will occur as follows:
 - Upon the start of each program,
 - Before and after snack and lunch,
 - Before and after using shared learning materials,
 - After an “unguarded” sneeze or cough within 6 feet of group,
 - After using the restroom,
 - At the end of the program.
 - Thorne staff will have spray bottles of clean water, biodegradable soap, and hand sanitizer available throughout the day. Frequent hand washing will be encouraged.
 - All participants will be taught the correct “20-second” protocol for hand washing.
 - Hand washing with soap and water is the preferred method; however, hand sanitizer is a backup to hand washing.
- Restrooms
 - High touch surfaces in restrooms at Thorne facilities will be disinfected at the beginning and end of the day.
 - Programs may use public restrooms.
 - Participants will wash hands thoroughly after using the restroom.

After the Program

If a program participant or family member becomes ill within 48 hours of your Thorne program, please contact the Director of your Thorne program (contact information is on page 1-2 and in program addendum). In the message, please include the participant's first and last name and a detailed list of symptoms and date of the onset of illness.

COVID-19 Illness Policy

- If a participant does not attend a program because of an illness, parents/caregivers must immediately notify the Director of your Thorne program (contact information is on page 1-2 and in program addendum). In the message, please include the participant's first and last name and a detailed list of symptoms.
- If a participant becomes ill during the program day, Thorne will follow the CDPHE COVID-19 guidance: [Child/Staff Feels/Appears Unwell after Arriving at School](#). If COVID-19 is suspected, the participant will be isolated from other participants until a parent/caregiver or emergency contact can retrieve them. Staff will have extra face coverings to protect themselves and participants in case a participant starts displaying symptoms of COVID-19.
- Depending on the circumstances of the illness, CDPHE and Thorne will determine if a communication and action plan is needed and such plan will be put into action.
- Thorne will exclude participants, staff, and volunteers who have COVID-19 related symptoms or COVID-19 exposure from attendance until they are cleared to return to programming. Thorne will follow the CDPHE [Return to Learn](#) guidance and will communicate the next steps that need to be taken with participant's families, staff, and volunteers.
 - If a COVID-19 test was required for a child, the parent/caregiver must provide a copy of the child's negative COVID-19 test in order to return to the program. If an alternative diagnosis was required, the parent/caregiver must provide a note from a medical provider that shows an alternative diagnosis and clearance for participation.
 - COVID-19 Exposure:
 - If a close contact has COVID-19: If a participant, staff, or volunteer has a close contact with COVID-19 they will likely be required to stay home for a 10-day quarantine. Public Health may recommend that the person gets tested for COVID-19 about 7 days after they were in contact with someone with a positive case of COVID-19. If they develop symptoms, they should get tested sooner.
 - If families have questions about where to get tested for COVID-19, they should contact their insurance company or refer to [BCPHE's website](#) for more information.
 - If families are concerned about discomfort during the COVID-19 test, the health department recommends looking for a testing center that uses Anterior Nares Swabs. These swabs are smaller and may be gentler for children.

- In the event that a participant, staff, or volunteer tests positive for COVID-19, Thorne staff will consult with CDPHE for additional guidance on isolation/quarantine procedures and program closures. The Thorne program may need to close for 24 hours for deep cleaning, disinfecting, and that participant's group may also be required to quarantine for 10 days. See CDPHE's [What Happens to the Contacts?](#) guidance for more information on possible responses to a positive case or presumed positive case.
 - The class may also be required to quarantine for up to 10 days if a classroom contact has symptoms of COVID-19 after an exposure, has new loss of taste or smell, or has ongoing symptoms of COVID-19 that last longer than four days.
- Staff will record all illnesses on the illness surveillance form and will communicate with CDPHE if COVID-19 is confirmed.
- Thorne has a backup, substitute system for staff who have COVID-19 related symptoms and cannot work.
- For all illnesses that do not have symptoms associated with COVID-19, families should refer to the CDPHE [How Sick is Too Sick](#) document and Thorne's Standard Illness policy.

Face Coverings and Social Distancing

With regards to face coverings and social distancing, Thorne Nature Experience will continue to follow all protocols put forth by CPDHE and the county. Please see below for the most [recent update by the county](#):

The amended Executive Order states that fully vaccinated people can go without masks in public indoor spaces unless the setting requires otherwise. Unvaccinated people over age 11 are encouraged to continue wearing masks in all public indoor spaces where members of different households are present.

Masks are still required in certain settings, including in schools for unvaccinated students, teachers, and staff, as well as other settings which are laid out in the Executive Order. Local communities and businesses may have additional mask restrictions.

Everyone age 2 and older must still wear masks on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States, and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. This is required by federal law for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

Please note:

- All children must have a mask with them at each camp session and day.

-Mask use is encouraged at pick-up and drop-off for caregivers.

-When indoors, we will follow these procedures: Participants will wear face coverings and social distance. Face coverings will be required for children ages 11 and older.

Any parent/caregiver who wants Thorne staff to ensure that their child wear a face covering most or all of the time or not be allowed in close contact with other participants not wearing a face covering should contact the Director of their program (contact information is on page 1-2 and in program addendum), and any agreements made between the Director and parent will be confirmed in writing by the Director to the parent by e-mail.

Grouping of Participants

- Thorne will be segmenting participants into specific groups.
- Groups will limit intermingling with other groups in order to reduce risk of spreading COVID-19, except in the instance where intermingling of groups is needed in order to as best as possible ensure the safety of participants (i.e. during a weather emergency or in response to the injury of a participant).
- Different groups will not use the bathroom at the same time.

Indoor Spaces

Thorne will operate programs outdoors as much as possible, but there are days and/or times of the day when program participants will be indoors. During times of unsafe weather, which could include storms or extreme heat or cold weather, we will operate indoors. We also may go indoors for bathroom use and handwashing. Some Thorne programs use indoor spaces more than others do. See program specific policies and procedures for more information on the use indoor spaces for each individual program.

When indoors, we will follow these procedures:

- Participants will wear face coverings and social distance. Face coverings will be required for children ages 11 and older.
- Facility and Cleaning
 - Thorne will disinfect all high-touch areas and materials at the start and end of the day and, when possible, throughout the day with Oxivir Tb disinfectant. For additional guidance, see the [cleaning guidance](#) available through the COVID-19 Colorado website.

Additional Considerations for Staff

Staff and volunteers will be expected to follow all of the policies listed above. In addition to that, staff will also need to adhere to the following policies.

Pre-Program Communication and Training:

- Staff will receive training specific to all items included within the CO State Public Health Order related to COVID-19 and all items included within this policy.

- Staff and volunteers will receive the most up to date version of the Thorne COVID -19 Health Policy and Procedures and COVID-19 pre-program screening questions two weeks prior to the start of each program session.

During the Program Session:

- Before each program day:
 - Staff and volunteers will take their temperature at home each day before camp and assess their wellness.
 - Staff and volunteers should notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick, starting to feel sick, or if they have a fever 100.4 or higher.
 - Thorne will refer symptomatic employees to the [CDPHE symptom tracker](#).
 - Thorne will refer to the CDPHE guidance and will consult with CDPHE when necessary to determine any actions that need to be taken for testing, isolation, or quarantine.
 - If testing is required, staff should reach out to their supervisor for more information on testing procedures.
- Thorne recommends that all unvaccinated staff avoid COVID risky behavior during their employment at Thorne, including air travel and gathering in groups of more than 10, if social distancing can't be maintained (concerts, indoor restaurants, and fitness classes). If unvaccinated staff participates in COVID risky behavior, we request that you share this information with your supervisor to make a plan to minimize risk to other Thorne staff and participants. This could include up to a 5 day, unpaid quarantine.

THORNE'S STANDARD ILLNESS POLICY

If an employee is ill, Thorne asks them to stay home until 24 hours after they are symptom free and fever free. This protects the health of the participants and adults in the program. When an employee shows signs of a severe or communicable illness, they will be asked to go home and a substitute teacher will fill in. In case of a known communicable illness, staff will report to the local health department pursuant to regulations of the State Department of Public Health and Environment and contact all employees and parents/caregivers of participants in care.

If a participant is ill, Thorne asks parents/caregivers to keep them home until 24 hours after participants are symptom free and fever free. This is so that participants can get better and it protects the health of the other participants and adults in the program. When a participant shows signs of a severe or communicable illness, they will be separated from other participants, the parent/caregiver notified, and a doctor or medical facility consulted as needed regarding treatment. In case of a known communicable illness, staff will report to the local health department pursuant to regulations of the State Department of Public Health and Environment and contact all parents/caregivers of participants in care.

If a participant says that they are feeling ill during program hours and they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19, they will be given the option to lay down on a nap pad to see if it passes. If after 10-20 minutes they are still feeling ill or if there are clear symptoms of illness, parents will be called to pick up their participant.

See the CDPHE [How Sick is too Sick?](#) document for more information.

SUMMER CAMP SPECIFIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Summer Camp Contact Information

Carrie Riesberg, Erin Saunders, Paul Humes- Summer Camp Managers
info@thornenature.org
(303) 499-3647 (call only)

Camp Structure

Camps run for two-week sessions.

- Camps are 8-10 participants per group. The group remains the same during the 2-week camp and the groups do not intermingle except in the instance of an emergency if intermingling is required to ensure safety of campers.

Face Coverings at Summer Camps

We will follow CDPHE guidelines when it comes to children and students wearing face masks for both indoor and outdoor activities. If CDPHE recommends face masks for children, children must be sent to school with a face covering that can be kept on their body at all times.

THORNE NATURE PRESCHOOL SPECIFIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Preschool Contact Information

Mattie Schuler, Preschool Director
mattie@thornenature.org
(303) 900-5401 (text preferred)

Face Coverings at Thorne Nature Preschool

We will follow CDPHE guidelines when it comes to children and students wearing face masks for both indoor and outdoor activities. If CDPHE recommends face masks for children, children must be sent to school with a face covering that can be kept on their body at all times.

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@thornenature.org or [\(303\) 499-3647](tel:3034993647).