

Nature Safety Guidelines at FAIS

Introduction

The FAIS Nature Spaces (the meadow, the forest, Discovery Park, playground, campus) are designed and maintained for the safety of our community. Nature has inherent risks that cannot be controlled and thus awareness and preparation of users is necessary. FAIS Staff should be notified immediately regarding nature safety concerns.

Risks include: Wild animals, poisonous plants, insects, allergens, weather concerns, and unsafe terrain.

For example: In Oregon, ticks can be found east of the Cascades and in Southern Oregon in May, June, and July. However, tick-carrying mammals do access the FAIS Campus as they pass through the wildlife corridor connections in our forest. Thus, we may find ticks in our forest.

Therefore to reduce the risk of exposure to unsafe organisms, the school requires the following precautions when WORKING in the forest (not walking or running on the trail):

- **Attire.** Wear long pants, a long sleeved shirt, socks, work gloves, and closed-toed shoes. Tuck in shirt and sleeves into gloves. In addition, tuck pants into your socks. Long hair should be tied back.
- **Self-check.** After working in the forest, do a self-check for insects and seeds:
 - On site: A visual check of clothing and hair
 - In the classroom: Rinse or wipe down exposed skin. Wash wrists, hands, and face.
 - At home: Bathe or shower and wash clothing. Check armpits and groin area for insects.
- For more information from CDC: [Lyme Disease – What you need to know](#)

Note to Teachers:

- Communicate before scheduled forest work to the parents via email. Inform them that their student will be working in the forest and share the policy above.
- Regularly set days of the week will help parents anticipate and prepare.
- If an impromptu forest event occurs off-trail, communicate with the parents immediately after returning to the classroom.
- If a suspected tick is found, send the student to the nurse. Nurse will identify and remove the tick.