

Dear Parents,

As you know, information regarding COVID-19 changes by the hour, and with that, recommendations for safe operation of childcare centers. Because of recent recommendations, we want to share with you the policies and procedures that we will be following when it is safe to reopen more fully.

I am sorry to say but we still do not have a schedule for reopening the Center.

We are planning on a “soft opening” meaning that we do not anticipate every classroom filling up right away. I have also detailed some of the things that we will be doing when we do open and wanted to give you some insight to how we plan to keep your children and the staff safe and healthy.

We will take the week before children begin to clean and sanitize the Center – we want to make sure that all surfaces including toys are cleaned and sanitized before children arrive. We will work with the Center’s cleaning crews to accomplish this. We will have a daytime cleaning person who will be helping with sanitizing all surfaces that children and adults touch including door knobs, railings, door closures, etc. We will also include some staff in this process.

Masks must be worn by everyone – both staff and children. Masks can be disposable or re-usable as long as they are at least two ply (meaning two layers).

Child Sign In

We are asking parents to sign children. Parents need to enter the area with their mask on. Children will also be required to have their mask on. We are asking that only one parent and child/ren enter the area at a time. No adults other than the management team, staff and cleaning crews will be allowed to enter the Center – and then only when they are masked.

Staff

- Staff will wear masks that cover their nose and mouth from the time they arrive at the Center (put on before they enter the building) until they leave the building. The only exception is eating and drinking.
- Staff will not eat or drink when children are eating and drinking.
- In the past, we have always promoted family style service and staff eating with children. We are rethinking how best to serve food and keep the children as safe as possible.
- Staff will sit with children and have conversation and provide any help/support that children need during snack and lunch times.
- Staff will wear masks when they are outdoors with children.
- Masks will be worn during diapering and/or toileting.
- Masks must be worn while children are eating.
- A clean mask must be worn each day. Staff can wash their mask daily or rotate between masks, as long as they come to work in a clean mask each day.
- One mask will be provided to staff if they do not have one.

Children:

- Children 2 years and older must wear masks (2 ply) that cover their nose and mouth while at school.
- The only exception is during snack, lunch and nap time.
- Children will place their mask in a zip lok bag labeled with their name during snack, lunch and nap time. Please review with your children how to safely take a mask off and put it away. Hands should never touch the inside of the mask.
- Masks must be worn while playing outside since children interact with each other outdoors.
- Children must wear a clean mask each day.
- Children should have at least 3 masks at school in case one gets wet or dirty during the day and needs to be removed.

Playground:

We are anticipating the beautiful weather happening without rain – so we will spend lots of time outdoors. Children will go to their respective playgrounds one group at a time. The play area including equipment will be cleaned and sanitized after each use and before another group of children go out to play. Any toys, items that teachers take outdoors for children to use, will be cleaned and sanitized before they are brought back into the building and before a different group of children use them.

Any adult who drops off and/or picks up a child must wear a clean, two-ply mask. The doors of the Center will not be opened to anyone who is not masked.

I have included information from the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding children wearing masks and how to introduce them to the concept and help them to be comfortable. I have also included information from the CDC on how to make a mask. The handout includes two “no sew” methods for mask making.

Please begin talking with your children about wearing masks, demonstrating how that needs to be done and why this is important. We truly appreciate your partnership in doing everything we can to keep all of us as healthy as possible,

Thank you,

Judy Simpson and the TodayCare management team and staff

AAO Article – <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/chest-lungs/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx>

CDC Mask Making Instructions – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

