



COVID-19 Enhanced Protocols – 8/25/21

Staff Arrival

- Staff are encouraged not to come to work if they are ill.
- Although all staff are fully vaccinated, face masks must be worn before entering the School.
- Any staff member with a temperature of 100.4 or higher, or other indication of illness, will be sent home.

Check-In & Pick Up

- Parents do not bring child to school if there was any recent exposure to COVID, or any signs of contagious illness in the child or other members of the household.
- Parents take their child's temperature at home before leaving for school each morning. (Stay home if 100.4 or above)
- Parents park in one of the drop off spots, visitor spots, or in the garage.
- **Parents and children 5 and up MUST wear a face covering before approaching or entering the School, whether or not they are fully vaccinated.** (Children 2-5 should also wear their face covering before coming inside.)
- Parents enter the School to drop off and pick up children. Parents should move expeditiously, spending no more than 15 total minutes inside the School.
- Parents with multiple children do not allow their children to go into their sibling's classroom.
- During morning check-in:
 - Parent signs in child and writes the temperature from their morning

check (thermometers will be available onsite if you forget).

- Children wash hands upon arrival to the classroom and then join their assigned group.

Healthy Environment

- Children are assigned to classroom groups where the same group of children remain separate from the others as much possible (cohort separation). If staffing requires groups to be in the same room (early morning, late pick up, etc.) masking and social distancing strategies will be employed.
- Cribs, playpens, cots and napping mats are spaced out as much as possible and children are placed head to toe for naps.
- Staff disinfect high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, faucets, toilets seats and handles after morning drop off and at the end of each day.
- Ceiling fans, air purifiers, and HVAC enhancements are used to increase airflow.
- Outdoor play areas are sectioned off so that cohorts can remain separate.
- Staff wash their hands and children's hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds often, particularly upon arrival, before and after eating, after diapering or using the toilet, after playing outdoors, and following any contact with bodily fluid.
- Staff will wear face coverings when inside the school and outside during pick up and

drop off times and other times when visitors are present.

- Children age two or older should wear face coverings provided by parents, during drop off and pick up. Children may take face coverings off when playing outside and inside when they are in their cohorts. If the face covering is a problem for any child to wear during the day, the teacher may have the child store the face covering. Some children, especially the younger ones, understandably cannot tolerate masks all day and or have trouble taking them on and off safely. WE CAN NOT FORCE CHILDREN TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS.
- Visits to the School by specialists, prospective parents, and providers of outside activities (soccer, JumpBunch) are allowed if the visitors are masked and vaccinated.

Meal Preparation and Service

- All surfaces are disinfected before meal preparation and feedings using EPA-approved disinfectant products.
- All staff wash hands before and after meal preparation and feeding.
- Each child's meal is plated and served by staff.
- Children do not share eating utensils.

Child Health

- Staff receive education on COVID-19 symptoms as well as preventive measures to ward off the spread of COVID-19 and other related illnesses such as Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children, or MIS-C.
- Children who start to experience symptoms of respiratory illness, including a fever of 100.4 or above and symptoms of other infectious illnesses while at child care are isolated from other children until they can be picked up.

Staff Health

- Staff notify the Director if any signs of illness develop during the day.
- Staff are not allowed to work if they are feeling ill, or experiencing respiratory symptoms or if someone in their household tests positive for COVID-19.

Emergency Communication & Closure

- Families supply the child care program with up-to-date emergency contact information for their child(ren) and ensure at least 1 parent is reasonably accessible at all times and able to pick up the child(ren) in the event of illness.
- In the event that someone in the School community shows signs of COVID-19 or gets a positive test result, the School will call the County Health Department & if indicated, the MSDE Office of Child Care. The Health Department will review the situation and advise the School about procedures to follow, and if necessary, the length of closure of the facility and any quarantine requirements for staff, children & families. Parents will be notified of any such directives.

Sources:

- <https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/Health%20And%20Safety%20Measures%20For%20Families.pdf>
- <http://marylandpublicschools.org/newsroom/Documents/MSDEChildCareRecoveryPlan.pdf>
- https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/final_child_care_face_covering_guidance_4.23.20.pdf
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>
- <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/generalsanitationguidelines.pdf>