

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN FOR FAMILIES

Updated 01/27/22*Information is subject to change based on current guidance.

MONITORING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

The overlap between COVID-19 symptoms with other common illnesses means some people with symptoms of COVID-19 could be ill with something else. This is even more likely in young children, who typically have multiple viral illnesses each year. Children who have symptoms of infectious illness or certain symptoms of COVID-19 will need to stay home.

All staff are trained in recognizing potential symptoms of COVID-19 including flushed cheeks, cough, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, runny nose, diarrhea, vomiting, fever, rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.

- Children will be able to return based on the latest guidance from the Kent County Health Department.
- Children will be asked to remain home if they have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19. ***If you choose not to have your child tested, we are required to assume that they have COVID-19*** and they must isolate for 10 days and may return to the classroom after 10 days when they are fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicines, and all other symptoms are improving.
- Staff will monitor children during the day for any signs of illness.
- If a child becomes ill while in care, the parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the child immediately. Staff will move the child to the designated isolation area within the classroom. Staff will utilize appropriate PPE (mask, gloves) while monitoring and caring for the child.

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL FOR REPORTING SYMPTOMS OR POSITIVE CASE AND EXCLUSION FROM CARE

- Staff and children should stay home and self-isolate if they show symptoms of COVID-19.
- If you suspect you or your child may have been exposed or have a confirmed case of COVID-19, please contact your healthcare provider and your child's teacher as soon as possible.
- Families are encouraged to have back-up childcare plans if the child or family member becomes ill or is required to self-quarantine due to possible COVID-19.

REPORTING EXPOSURE

If a child, staff member, family member or visitor to our agency becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms, we will report to the KCHD and our licensing consultant for next steps. HS4KC will follow KCHD guidelines for notifying parents if COVID-19 is present in any of our sites and will close a classroom or a facility based on guidance from KCHD.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

- Parents/guardians are required to wear a mask during drop-off and pick-up (if they are coming into the building) and required to wait in the designated screening area to maintain social distance.
- Drop off and pick up should be limited to one adult.
- If there are several children being dropped off or picked up at the same time, parents/guardians may be asked to wait in the order of arrival until staff returns.
- A staff person will verbally complete the COVID-19 screener with the parent/guardian and take the child's temperature.
 - If the COVID-19 screener is not passed, and/or the child's temperature is higher than 100.4 degrees, the child will not be permitted to attend, and parent/guardian will be encouraged to contact their healthcare provider for evaluation.
 - If the COVID-19 screener is passed and the child's temperature is below 100.4 degrees, a staff person will sign the child in by writing the time of drop-off and the name of the parent/guardian that dropped the child off.
- If arriving before your child's scheduled pick-up time, please call the building to notify staff and make necessary arrangements.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

- Masks are required to be worn by everyone while on the bus.
- If there are several children being dropped off or picked up at the same time, parents/guardians may be asked to wait in the order of arrival to enter the bus.

- The bus driver will verbally complete the COVID-19 screener with the parent/guardian and take the child's temperature.
 - If the COVID-19 screener is not passed, and/or the child's temperature is higher than 100.4 degrees, the child will not be allowed on the bus or permitted to attend preschool. The parent/guardian will be encouraged to contact their healthcare provider for evaluation.
 - If the COVID-19 screener is passed and the child's temperature is below 100.4 degrees, the parent may enter the bus and buckle their child into the seat.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Children will be spaced 6 ft apart whenever possible and assigned individual spaces when applicable.
- For infants and toddlers, staff will position children six feet apart in chairs with trays.
- There is limited mixing of children among classrooms. Specific site plans have been developed to allow for small cohorts within each building when necessary.

ENSURING HYGIENE

- Staff are trained on proper handwashing techniques and will reinforce and monitor proper handwashing for children.
- Staff and children will wash their hands often throughout the day with soap and water. This will occur when they enter the classroom, before and after activities such as meals, after restroom use, after blowing one's nose, after the use of gloves, and/or coughing or sneezing.
- Handwashing will be the primary method of hand hygiene. Gloves and hand sanitizer will also be utilized by staff throughout the day in addition to handwashing.
- Toys that cannot be easily cleaned or sanitized have been removed. All group sensory and water tables will no longer be used; children will have an individual sensory bin for play.
- Staff will place toys that have been in or near a child's mouth in a designated container; these toys will be sanitized prior to another child playing with them.
- Family style eating will not occur during this time and all children will be provided individual meals and snacks. Drinks will be poured for the children.
- Bottles will be prepared by staff using the ready-made formula. Staff will wear a smock when bottle feeding infants and change to a clean smock for each child.

MASK USE

HS4KC will provide face coverings for all staff, children and visitors who need one.

Indoors:

- Staff, visitors, and parents/guardians that have been vaccinated against COVID-19 will be required to wear a face covering while interacting with children and others in the building, and strongly encouraged to be worn when in common areas (hallways, bathrooms), and anytime when they cannot consistently maintain 6 feet of separation from other individuals in the workplace.
- Staff, visitors, and parents/guardians that have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 will be required to wear a face covering at all times while at a site.
- Children over 2 years of age who are enrolled in our program are required to wear a mask except during meals, snacks and rest time.

Outdoors:

- Masks are required to be worn outdoors in crowded settings or during activities that involve close contact with other people, including at drop off and pick up.

STAFF, CONTRACTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

HS4KC will ensure all staff, contractors and volunteers whose activities involve contact with or provide direct services to children and families, will be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.