

Updated August 4~ 2021-22 COVID-19 POLICIES & PROCEDURES for Parents

Please understand that we are following recent guidelines set forth by the CDC and our licensing agencies OCDEL and Dept. of Education. Due to the Delta variant, which is highly contagious, we are forced to resume some of our previous protocols.

*Please note that the CDC Covid Protocols that all childcare centers must follow in cases of exposure or infection, enumerated below, supersede our "Child Illness & Public Health Policies" given in our Parent Handbook in cases where there is a discrepancy.*

### **A. Picking up and dropping off children:**

You ordinarily arrive at staggered times, so please be polite and patient, allowing time for these safety precautions.

- 1.\*\*Allow 6 ft. distance from others at all times.
- 2.\*\*Parents and children must first sanitize hands (use the sanitizer station at the keypad if you don't have your own).
- 3.\*\*Parents (even the vaccinated) and children must wear masks indoors. This is because our children cannot be vaccinated and they can carry Covid asymptomatically, spreading it.
- 4.\*\*Enter the designated area following signs and KW staff will greet you or you will see directions as to where to go.
- 5.\*\* Staff will sign you in or out, to avoid cross contamination with clipboards and pens.

Children will be encouraged to wear a mask indoors whenever possible and practical, and especially when distancing is difficult to maintain. We will not encourage a child to wear a mask if the child has difficulty wearing it, or if it is determined that the mask is detrimental to the health and safety of the child and the group (for example, if the mask causes an increase in cross contamination through excessive handling, as is often the case with younger children, or during physical activity, or when distancing is easy). We will teach children to keep their hands away from their faces, and the faces of others.

To minimize cross contamination, we ask that you keep toys at home for younger children; for older children their toys & games & supplies from home will be for their use only.

Please send your child with only the essentials: **lunchbox + ONE BAG both clearly labelled with your child's name.** For all children, as months go by, be sure to pack outerwear so we can go outside as weather changes from hot to warm to cool. **For younger children**, pack a change of clothes & whatever else is essential for your child. **For the very young**, include bagged bedding for naptime.

*For toddlers*, please send sippy cups inside a clean, labelled re-sealable plastic bag.

*For infants*, please use your usual luggage.

## **B. Lunches**

Note we have higher safety standards for lunch (seating 3-6 ft apart, surfaces sterilized, “quiet” lunches encouraged to minimize talking, outside lunch whenever possible). Lunch boxes provide each with the safest lunch time.

## **C. Nap/Rest for the very young and Outdoor times.**

Note we have higher safety standards in place for nap/rest times (cots head to toe, 6 ft apart, bedding bagged after use, and as usual, sterilizing cots and mats).

Note that **we will spend as much time as possible outside in the fresh air.** We can hold structured time as well as child-initiated activities in all of our curriculum/camp areas out-of-doors. We will monitor the number of children indoors and outside to be sure we have enough space in each area being used. We will also be mindful of sun exposure, as usual. *Please send outerwear for your child so he or she can go outside as the weather changes.*

## **D. Building and Classroom and Playground Changes (for your information):**

Weather (and bugs) permitting, we will leave doors and screened windows open for heightened ventilation. Please understand that this means we will have greater temperature fluctuation inside the school: as it is cooler or warmer, we will not be using our heating and cooling systems until necessary, but rather, we will use open windows and fans to enhance ventilation and fresh air flow. *This means you should dress your child accordingly.* Of course, we will use HVAC when it is uncomfortably warm or cold. Our systems have special UV filters so assure that we get the cleanest air possible. In addition, some rooms have air purifiers.

In addition to our regular cleaning *every night*, our professional cleaning company is using CDC recommended sterilizing cleaning products. Our staff will be spot cleaning all day long with CDC recommended sterilizing cleaning products.

Our staff is trained in cleaning and sterilizing our equipment & furniture, and we have a system to be sure that ‘hot spots’ are cleaned every 30-45 minutes (for example, door handles, toilet handles, faucets, table tops, backs of chairs). Our staff are also keen observers, so we will be cleaning as we see ‘hot spots’ appear.

Our staff will designate specific toys, equipment, games and materials for specific groups of children to mitigate cross-contamination. Toys and learning materials will be sterilized either in the sterilizing dishwasher or using CDC recommended sanitizing cleaners or using a UVC wand.

## **E. Changes for our Teaching Team (for your information):**

We have a health and safety protocol in place daily for staff and for therapists and for guests and deliveries. All of our staff and therapists are required to have the vaccine or to be tested weekly with a negative result. Guests visiting briefly must attest to being free from Covid-19 symptoms, attest to not being in contact with anyone who may have Covid-19, wear a mask, sanitize hands and maintain distance.

All of our staff are required to wear face masks indoors even though they are vaccinated or tested weekly.

Gloves will be used whenever body fluids are handled. Our staff know how to take these off and dispose of them safely. Our Teaching Team will wash their own hands every 30-45 minutes. They will use hand sanitizer if washing is unavailable.

Our Teaching Team will assure that our children are in discrete groups (called groups or classes or pods), maximizing space and minimizing mixing of children. They will be sure to space table activities and circle lessons so children practice safe social distancing whenever possible.

Our Teachers are all aware of the stress your families have been enduring, and will be especially supportive of the children as they come back to Kinder Works. Whereas hugs and touching and facial expression may be reduced, we have other means of comforting and communicating care, love and safety. We are all in this together to make this transition a success for the children, who really need to socialize and learn to be with others. Please help keep the children, families, and the wider community safe and healthy. Let's stay calm and make our eyes smile!

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*Hello Kinder Works parents,*

*We are including this information below, which comes directly from the CDC, for your information. All childcare centers must follow these guidelines.*

*You can see that if anyone is exposed, thinks they might have Covid, or tests positive, all non-vaccinated persons (including children) with contact have to go into quarantine. Vaccinated persons with contact still have to monitor symptoms for 14 days.*

*This is why we must be careful. Thank you for your cooperation.*

## DEALING WITH CONFIRMED OR PROBABLE COVID-19 CASES AND EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

The expiration of the universal face covering order does not impact the isolation or quarantine protocols. Child care providers should continue to utilize the procedures below.

The following pertains to all facility persons, household members residing in a group child care home or family child care home, and children at a child care facility who either test positive for COVID-19 (confirmed case) or who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and have developed symptoms (probable case).

### For COVID-19 cases:

- If the child is in care when the test results are confirmed positive, the child must be isolated until the appropriate party arrives to pick them up.
- Follow the “Discontinuing at home isolation” guidance below for timelines on returning to the child care setting.
- If a facility person or child tests positive for COVID-19, areas used by the person who tested positive must be closed for a period of 24 hours following the confirmed positive COVID-19 case of child or facility person in attendance so that the facility can be cleaned and disinfected properly. Close contacts as defined below, must self-quarantine.
- If a facility person or child becomes ill with COVID-19 like symptoms as defined by the [CDC](#), close off areas used by the person who is sick and clean and disinfected properly.
  - The individual should be evaluated by their health care provider immediately.
  - If the individual tests positive upon further evaluation by a healthcare provider, follow guidance under *Exposure to a person who tests positive for COVID-19*.
- The operator shall inform parents of enrolled children when there is a suspected outbreak of a communicable disease or an outbreak of an unusual illness that represents a public health emergency in the opinion of the Department of Health as per 55 Pa. Code §3270.136(b), §3280.136(b), and §3290.136(b).
  - An outbreak is defined as a single positive COVID-19 case.
- The facility must report positive COVID-19 cases to the Department of Health (DOH) as per 55 Pa. Code §3270.136(d), §3280.136(d), and §3290.136(d), EXCEPT in the counties listed below on [page 6](#). Facilities within the counties listed below on [page 6](#) must report positive COVID-19 cases to their local health department, who will in turn report this information to DOH.
- The facility must report positive COVID-19 cases and positive COVID-19 cases that result in death to their Department of Human Services (DHS) Certification Representative.
- The facility must utilize the DHS Licensed Facility COVID Data Collection Tool. Facilities who do not have access to the DHS Licensed Facility COVID Data Collection Tool will inform their DHS Certification Representative to ensure the information is entered into the COVID Data Collection Tool by DHS personnel.

- The facility must develop a process to inform facility persons of positive COVID-19 cases within the facility.

### **Exposure to a person with COVID-19**

Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. It also means coming into direct contact with droplets from a COVID-19 positive individual. Persons who test positive are considered infectious 48 hours before the onset of symptoms. Persons testing positive but who do not have symptoms are considered infectious 2 days after exposure (if known) or starting 2 days before test date (if exposure is unknown).

The guidance for quarantine and isolation below is designed for non-fully vaccinated individuals, which includes children. People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, as their risk of infection is low. Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated, and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care. For more information for persons fully vaccinated visit the [CDC website](#).

Additional options for ending quarantine can be found in [2021-PAHAN-566](#).

If a facility person, household member, or a child is exposed to an individual who tests positive for COVID-19:

- They shall self-quarantine. The most protective recommended quarantine period remains at 14 days post exposure. Additional options for ending quarantine are as follows:
  - Quarantine can end after Day10 without testing if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.
  - Day 0 is the day of exposure. Day1 is the day following the day of exposure.
  - When testing resources are sufficient, quarantine can end after day 7 if an individual tests negative for COVID-19 and the test is administered day 5 or thereafter AND the person remains asymptomatic.
  - Quarantine may not be further shortened beyond the end of day 7.
  - It is required that symptom monitoring continue through day 14. If any symptoms develop, in individual should immediately self-isolate and follow the parameters outlined below.
- If a child becomes ill at the facility, the operator shall notify the child's parent as soon as possible.

- The operator shall inform parents of enrolled children when there is a suspected outbreak of a communicable disease or an outbreak of an unusual illness that represents a public health emergency in the opinion of the Department of Health as per 55 Pa. Code §3270.136(b), §3280.136(b), and §3290.136(b).
- The facility must report to their DHS Certification Representative when a facility person, child, or household member is exposed to a positive COVID-19 case.
- The facility must utilize the DHS Licensed Facility COVID Data Collection Tool. Facilities who do not have access to the DHS Licensed Facility COVID Data Collection Tool will inform their DHS Certification Representative to ensure the information is entered into the COVID Data Collection Tool by DHS personnel.
- If a facility person/child is a potential exposure AND has COVID-19 like [symptoms](#), please report to DOH or your local health department as prescribed on [page 6](#).
- The facility must develop a process to inform facility persons of possible exposure to a positive COVID-19 case.

## **RETURN TO CARE:**

### [Children and facility persons identified as ill on screening or who are sent home for being symptomatic](#)

Children or facility persons who meet criteria for illness on screening or who become ill while at the facility and are sent home should be referred to their healthcare provider for evaluation.

For facility persons and children, who are not currently a close contact or quarantined, presenting with symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 may return to a facility when:

- Symptomatic child/facility persons who is not tested: exclude for 10 days from symptom onset AND at least 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) without the use of fever reducing medication AND improved respiratory symptoms.
- Symptomatic child/facility persons determined by a health care provider to have an illness other than COVID-19: exclude until without a fever for 24 hours (if fever present) without the use of fever reducing medication and symptoms improving.
- Symptomatic child/facility persons with test negative: exclude until without a fever for 24 hours (if fever present) without the use of fever reducing medication AND improved respiratory symptoms.

## **Discontinuing at Home Isolation:**

A symptom-based strategy (i.e., time-since-illness-onset and time-since-recovery strategy) is the only

recommended strategy in discontinuing at home isolation. A test-based strategy is no longer recommended to determine when to discontinue home isolation, except in certain circumstances as determined by a healthcare provider.

## **Symptom-Based Strategy**

Individuals with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 1 day (24 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms; **and**,
- At least 10 days have passed *AFTER symptoms first appeared*.

**For Persons Who Tested Positive for COVID-19 but have NOT had COVID-19 Symptoms in Home Isolation:**

Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation after no less than 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, provided no symptoms have developed during that 10-day period.

Updated Quarantine Recommendations for Persons Exposed to COVID-19 can be found in [2021- PAHAN-559](#).

Interim Guidance on Discontinuing Non-Healthcare Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 can be found in [2020-PAHAN-518](#).