

Little Learners Child Care Covid 19 Preparedness Plan

Updated 3/21/2021

1. Frequent Handwashing

- We will reinforce hand washing routines, especially upon arrival, after having been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, and putting hands in or near your face. If soap and water are not available, we will use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Staff will administer hand sanitizer and it will be inaccessible to them when not in use by being in first aid bags or attached to walls.
 - Each child will put on sanitizer before and after play equipment
- Staff and children will review the CDC guidance on handwashing and can be found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#HandHygiene>

2. Cleaning and disinfecting

- Protocols related to cleaning and disinfection of programs should be detailed so that staff know what is expected of them.
 - Follow MDH and CDC guidance for frequent cleaning and disinfecting of your program:
 - Staff will follow detailed cleaning schedules for community spaces and rooms on a daily basis.
 - <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/clean.pdf>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
- Room staff members will be scheduled each day to ensure high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, stair rails, counters, tables and chairs, shared toys, program equipment and other items are regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- We will minimize the use of shared supplies (e.g. arts and crafts, office supplies) that cannot be sanitized and consider using designated bins for clean and used items by:
 - Creating small baskets of supplies for each small groups to be put away before the next group uses it.
 - Creating individual play do(sensory) for each child labeled with child's name or having wash before and after use
- We have establish procedures for cleaning and disinfection after persons suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 have been in the program that include:
 - Leave the room vacant until staff can get into the room and clean.
 - Will consult and follow CDC/MDH recommendations with sanitizing methods including higher bleach concentration.

3. Arrival and Departure

- Pick up and drop-off will occur at the classroom doors. Parents are asked to stand 6ft apart at drop-off/pick-up, if other parents are getting screened wait on the rug They will notify us via Brightwheel.
- All drop off/pick ups will happen at the doors of classrooms. All staff are required to use the front door. Upon entering they will get screened and complete the "MN Screener" . A mask needs to be worn into the building. No one is allowed into the building without a mask.
- All children entering the center will be screened based on the below screen. Health will be documented on the chart near the door for the Director/Assistant to follow up with. All exclusion and reentering of care will be determined by the director.
 - Screening process for children:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#ScreenChildren>

4. Plans for sick children, staff, and volunteers

- We will conduct daily health checks. This includes screening for children, staff, volunteers, and household members for family child care programs to ensure those who exhibit any symptoms of illness are not present.
- We will follow and communicate exclusion guidance and ensure children, staff, and volunteers stay home when sick: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>
- We will use CDC guidance to develop a plan for what you will do if someone becomes sick with COVID-like symptoms:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#General>
- If a child, staff member, or volunteer is diagnosed with COVID-19 or if you have questions about a child, staff member, or volunteer who is exhibiting symptoms, we will reach out to MDH at health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us and follow their direction.
- We will use the MDH and CDC resources above, create a communication plan for how and when you will notify parents, staff, and volunteers if a child, staff member, volunteer or household member for family child care programs has been exposed, is exhibiting symptoms, or has tested positive:
 - Contact families of any potential exposure via Brightwheel immediately upon direction of MDH or confirmed test.

5. Social distancing throughout the day

- Group sizes will stay under 10 as much as possible (except Infant and Waddlers) and create consistent groups of children and providers, staff, or volunteers who stay together throughout the day. If class sizes are larger than 10, the staff will treat it as two separate groups within the room and separate the groups as much as possible.
 - Use gym space, cafeteria space for extra room to keep groups small.
- Kids will be directed on flow of traffic and distancing by staff and rooms where 2 groups are together the children will have on colored dots to differentiate the 2 groups. Kids will use the visual makers, floor squares to For example, you may want to tape “circles” on the floor to let children know where they should sit to promote social distancing.
- At nap time, ensure that children’s naptime mats (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible. Consider placing children head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.

6. Source control and cloth face coverings

Center will follow the below guidance and recommendations for masking

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/masks.html>

(please review document on proper mask wearing). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>

- Staff will either launder their face covering at home
- Children will not wear cloth face coverings unless families insist on them.
- We will follow the exception
- **Optional exemption:** If a child care provider cares for children who are 5 and under, but also cares for children older than 5, the business can exempt children older than 5 from face covering and face shield requirements only if the exemption is clearly communicated in writing with all enrolled families and included in the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

7. WORKPLACE VENTILATION

- Will ensure the HVAC system is running and maintained. We will spend as much time outside as possible and room doors open so air flow can be optimized.

8. PLAYGROUND USE

- We will stagger playground use rather than allowing big groups to play together. Each age group has a designated time outside.
- Kids will wash hands before and after touching play structures. When possible, we will clean high touch areas of the play structure between groups.
- When bringing children in your care to a public playground, we will ensure children wash hands after touching play structures and maintain six feet of space from other children as much as possible.
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/playground.pdf>

9. Meals and snacks

- Meals will not be served family-style, we will plate each meal and serve it so that multiple children are not using the same serving utensils.
- When we are using the cafeteria, the meal will be served to cohort group of children at a time, with cleaning and sanitizing occurring in between groupings.

10. Field trips and events

- No large group activities, such as field trips and family events will be planned.

11. Communications and training

- This plan must be available to the Commissioner and offered to families on the website. We will communicate to families, using plain language, the expectations for parents and children in implementing this plan (e.g. outdoor pick-up/drop-off protocols).
- This plan must be posted in a prominent place (bulletin board, online) and readily accessible to all of your employees, adult caregivers, substitutes, and volunteers who need to review it. Training will be provided to ensure everyone is following the plan. Individuals will be updated on any changes to the plan.
- Parents will be acknowledging incidents reports via Brightwheel to eliminate the need for exposure.
- Staff with concerns about their employer's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan or questions about their rights should contact MNOSHA Compliance at osha.compliance@state.mn.us, 651-284-5050 or 877-470-6742.