



## ECEC COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

(revised July 2021)

Providers licensed and certified to provide child care services, are required to follow guidance from the [Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\)](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) to mitigate the spread of illness, including COVID-19. While many faculty members and family members have now been vaccinated and restrictions have been lessened, young children are not vaccinated, and we are still advised to operate with the possibility that COVID-19 could be confirmed in this program. We understand that many of these related practices also benefit our overall health and safety in this program.

### 1. Frequent Handwashing

- All staff and children will wash hands according to our handwashing policy set forth by our health consultant, especially upon arrival, after having been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, adults will use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Handwashing guidelines are posted at each handwashing sink.
- Our center follows the CDC guidance on handwashing : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#HandHygiene>

### 2. Cleaning and disinfecting

- High-touch surfaces are regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- A COVID-19 Disinfecting Program is provided by MN Services (our contracted daily cleaning service) using CDC approved disinfecting guidelines.
- The center has minimized the use of shared supplies that cannot be sanitized, and each classroom uses designated bins or pails for clean and used items. Children wash hands before and after using any shared items.
- Established procedures for cleaning and disinfection will be implemented that focus on areas of potential contamination, after persons confirmed to have COVID-19 have been in the program.

### 3. Arrival and Departure

- Drop off and pick up occur with entrance at the main south door. Parents may enter the facility to drop off their children at the children's classroom door and pick up their children at the *child's classroom door*. Parents may not enter the classroom and may wear masks and social distance to their comfort.
- Before entering the facility, staff, children, and accompanying family members will conduct a self-screening to ensure they are symptom-free. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#ScreenChildren>

#### **4. Plans for sick children, staff, and volunteers**

- Daily health checks are individually conducted by families and faculty before arrival to the center. This includes children, staff, and household members to ensure those who exhibit any symptoms of illness are not present.
- If a staff member becomes sick during the day, he or she will be sent home. If a child becomes sick during the day, he or she will be isolated with a supervising staff member in the ECEC office, and the parent/guardian will be called to pick up the child as soon as possible.
- Our center follows most recent exclusion guidance and ensure children, staff, and volunteers stay home when sick: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>
- If a child, staff member, or volunteer is diagnosed with COVID-19 or we have questions about a child, staff member, or volunteer who is exhibiting symptoms, the center director will reach out to MDH at [health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us](mailto:health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us) and follow their direction. MDH and CDC guidance will be used if someone becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms.
- The center will notify parents, staff, and volunteers if an enrolled child or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19, upon direction from MDH.

#### **5. Social distancing**

- Faculty members and family members may practice social distancing to each one's comfort level.
- Students remain in consistent homeroom groups of children and staff who stay together throughout the day. Our daily hours of operation are 8:00am-5:00pm so our faculty can all be present open to close daily for consistency.
- Each group has a designated time on the playground to avoid mixing of homeroom groups.
- Children eat snacks and lunch in their homeroom classrooms.
- At nap time, ensure that children's naptime cots and cribs are spaced out as much as possible, placing children head to toe to further reduce the potential for viral spread.

#### **6. Source control and cloth face coverings**

- The use of face masks is optional for all staff and family members. We assume each faculty member and family will make their own decisions regarding face mask use to accommodate each one's own comfort level.
- Staff wear disposable vinyl or plastic gloves for diapering, meal service, and other contact as directed by the health consultant.

#### **7. Workplace ventilation**

- Our facility always maximizes the amount of fresh air being brought in the building utilizing our HVAC filtered system with a % of fresh air.
- All students will spend time outdoors daily (weather permitting) during their designated group playground schedule.

## **8. Playground use**

- Each classroom group has designated daily playground times, so that groups are not mixing.
- Additional toys and equipment are limited on the playground to only be used by individual homeroom groups.

## **9. Meals and snacks**

- Each child brings his or her own lunch from home, brought in a self-contained lunch container.
- Staff wash hands and wear gloves during any assistance to children at meal times.

## **10. Field trips and events**

- ECEC family events and student group activities may be scheduled due to the conclusion of Minnesota's peacetime emergency. This includes resuming a weekly chapel and a PreK/High 5 graduation event in late August.
- Events will be planned and implemented with attention to reasonable health and safety measures.

## **11. Communications and training**

- This plan is available to the Commissioner and offered to families.
- This plan is posted and readily accessible to all employees, substitutes, and volunteers who need to review it via our Commons bulletin board and on our website.
- All staff and faculty received COVID-19 protocol and operations training on-site on May 1, 2020, and updated training with the written plan in June of 2020. Training was refreshed in January of 2021 and June 2021.
- It is expected that all employees will follow the protocol in this plan, and they will be updated on any changes to this plan.
- Staff with concerns about their employer's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan or questions about their rights may contact MNOSHA Compliance at [osha.compliance@state.mn.us](mailto:osha.compliance@state.mn.us), 651-284-5050 or 877-470-6742.