

Ossining Children's Center

Health & Safety Procedures of the Ossining Children's Center Re: SARS-CoV-2 & Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

As a child care center, our efforts regarding COVID-19, are to protect our children, families, and staff from exposure and infection. To that end, we require that all our staff and any visiting therapists be fully vaccinated.

The following protocols and procedures reflect the most up-to-date guidelines available from the CDC and Office of Children and Family Services. However, as circumstances are ever-changing, addendums and revisions should be expected.

The Center will regularly consult its off-site Health Director for updates on the outbreak as it continues to evolve, and modify these procedures as directed.

1. Health Screening

Daily Screening: Each child will have mandatory daily screening: one upon arrival at the Center and a minimum of one more during the course of the day. This will include a temperature and symptom screening. Any child who exhibits any symptom(s) or has a temperature reading of 100.4 or higher will not be able to enter the building and cannot return until symptom or temperature free for 48 hours. If a child has multiple symptoms, a doctor's note is required to return.

*All staff will undergo mandatory daily screening as well.

2. Droplet Precautions

COVID-19 is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another, (within about 3 feet), or through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Therefore, the Center has prepared the following "droplet precautions":

A. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): In a classroom setting where our area limitations and constant interaction make physical distancing difficult to maintain, it is important that we take the following precautions regarding the use of personal protective equipment:

i. Facemasks (e.g. surgical facemasks or cloth face coverings) are to be worn at all times when indoors by both staff and children. Only children in the infant and toddler classes are exempt from this requirement. If needed, children will receive a mask when they arrive at the Center.

Please note: any adult dropping a child off or picking up must wear a mask when entering the building.

ii. Disposable gloves are required to be worn by staff at the following times:

- When handling any incoming belongings or equipment
- When administering topical medication, ointments, or sunscreens
- When preparing or handling food
- When helping a child use the bathroom or diapering
- When anticipating contact with bodily fluids

*Staff will follow proper glove removal procedures and perform proper hand hygiene (see below) afterwards to prevent contamination

B. Hand Hygiene: Hand hygiene is the single-most important procedure for preventing the spread of infectious diseases. All children and staff members will be required to frequently wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds throughout the day – as per CDC guidelines – but especially at the following times:

For Children

- i. Upon arrival
- ii. Before and after eating or handling food
- iii. After playing outdoors
- iv. After using the bathroom
- v. After coming in contact with bodily fluids

For Staff

- i. Upon arrival or after returning from break
- ii. After helping a child use the bathroom
- iii. Before and after diapering
- iv. Before and after administering medication, ointments, sunscreen.

3. Class Size for Social Distancing

Class size will be guided by a combination of CDC guidelines and OCFS regulations for specific age groups. Whenever possible, the Center will endeavor to limit the number of potential contacts for each child by limiting classroom size, keeping regular, consistent staff in each room, and restricting any “mixing” of classes indoors where physical distancing cannot be accomplished. However, in order to best serve our families, some classes may be slightly larger than CDC recommends. In addition, as social distancing is extremely difficult to enforce with young children, real-life interactions cannot fully adhere to the guidelines.

4. Drop-Off and Pick-Up

While drop-off and pick-up procedures will be specific to individual sites the following rules apply to all locations:

- A. All parents/guardians and children other than infants and toddlers will be required to wear masks during drop off and pick up.
- B. Only 2 families will be allowed in our vestibule at one time.
- C. All children will be required have a daily health screening: temperature check and symptom screening.

5. Cleaning and Disinfection

Throughout the day, staff members will be required to routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces including, but not limited to:

- A. Tabletops & chairs
- B. Doorknobs/door handles
- C. Stair railings
- D. Countertops
- E. Windowsills
- F. Light switches
- G. Faucet handles
- H. Toys/books/hands-on learning items

6. Confirmed Cases

In the event that there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the Center, we will consider the entire class to be at risk of contagion. All of the parents of the children in the affected group will be contacted and asked to keep their child home for 10 days to ensure that their child is COVID 19 free before returning.

In accordance with HIPAA guidelines, at no time will the identity of an individual with or suspected of having COVID 19 be released.

We appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation during these uncertain times.