



YMCA OF LONG ISLAND CHILD CARE COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN (Updated 3.2.2022)

The COVID-19 Safety Plan is subject to change at any time based on updates provided by New York State. Any changes to the plan will be shared with families.

WELLNESS CHECKS

Screening Criteria

- Students and staff will be screened daily upon arrival by a visual and verbal health check in accordance with NYS Office of Children and Family Services.
- The screening will determine:
 - Is your child feeling well?
 - Do they have any symptoms?
 - Have you or the child had any known contact with a person confirmed or suspected to have covid-19 in the past 14 days?
- If any of these are questions are confirmed, they will be referred to the leadership staff (Child Care Director, School Age Child Care Director, Site Director, and Assistant Site Director) on site.
- The leadership staff on-site will decide if a participant or staff member is able to stay on site based on the screening.
- When in doubt, we will be asking the participant or staff to leave the site.

Arrival

- Students and staff will be greeted and screened upon arrival as noted above.
- Students & families will receive information encouraging them to keep 6 feet of distance between themselves and until our staff gives them permission to proceed inside the building. (Arrival will vary based on location and further information will be provided)
- Staff will do their best to screen students before entering the YMCA or the program school area.
- Families that need to speak to a staff member will be consulted with a short distance away from the rest of the staff and students.
- For arrivals outside of the set drop-off time, students and staff will be screened upon arrival and before entry.

Pick-Up

- Families will be kept from congregating when picking up their child.
- Staff will be strategically placed to keep appropriate distance from families.
- Families will be encouraged to pick up from designated areas. (Dismissal will vary based on location and further information will be provided)

MITIGATION TECHNIQUES

The following mitigation techniques will be reinforced with all students and staff:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 30 seconds
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth.
- Keep a social distance from people when feasible.
- If you are sick, stay home except to get medical care.

When will participants and staff wash hands?

- Handwashing will happen several times a day, including students and staff upon arrival to the school, the YMCA, or the Before and After School Program.
- For handwashing: soap, running water will be used.
- For hand sanitizing: an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol will be located for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available or practical.
- Hand sanitizer available throughout common areas on site. It will be placed in convenient locations, such as at entrances, exits, and reception desks.

PHYSICAL DISTANCE & FACE COVERINGS

YMCA of Long Island will have the staff maintain social distance of at least six (6) feet from students and other employees. The only exception to this is unless safety or the core activity requires a shorter distance.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings for COVID-19 are not required as of 3.2.2022 however are strongly recommended.

GROUP SIZE

- Children will remain in static groups and will follow NYS Office of Children and Family Services maximum group size by age.
- Groups will remain separate from other groups.
- Groups will have assigned indoor spaces to ensure that groups remain separated.

FACILITIES

- The facility/school and equipment will be routinely cleaned with disinfectant.
- Visitors to the program will be extremely limited. (YMCA staff, Licensing Inspectors, SEITS, therapist, and school personnel)
- Members of the YMCA will be kept separate from students whenever possible. Entrances will be managed.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 AT YMCA/SCHOOL

When symptoms of COVID-19 are displayed at Preschool and in the Before and After School Program, the following protocols will take place:

For Students

- Students will immediately be separated from the group.
- Our leadership staff will be consulted.
- If asked to leave, family will be notified immediately and asked to pick up the student. Students will wait in an isolated space away from the rest of the school population.
- If cleared, students will have another wellness check with our leadership staff throughout the day.

Returning to YMCA/School

- If student is asked to leave the Preschool, the YMCA branch, or the Before and After School Program with a fever of 100.0 or more cannot return to care for 24 hours and will require a doctor's note that they are symptom-free.

CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 AT YMCA/SCHOOL

- If a case of COVID-19 is confirmed with a student or a staff member, NYS Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS), will be informed. Suffolk County or Nassau County will instruct YMCA of Long Island how to proceed.

- After contact tracing any close contacts may be asked to self-quarantine from the YMCA program. The self-quarantine can last between 5-10 days based on the individual's exposure and symptoms and the guidance from NYS Office of Children and Family Services. (See below the latest guidance from NYS OCFS)
- The only exception to this is will be if a person received a negative result from a COVID-19 test after the 5th day quarantine. Documentation must be provided.

CONTACT TRACING

The YMCA of Long Island is required to report all cases of Covid-19 to Nassau or Suffolk County Department of Health and NYS Office of Children and Family Services. Confidentiality will be maintained as required by federal and state law and regulations.

CREDIT POLICY

NOTE: Credit and Refund Policies are subject to change at any time. Families will be notified if a change occurs.

Preschool Program

If the YMCA closes the program for participants to quarantine due to a mandate from Nassau or Suffolk County Department of Health (DOH) or NYS Office of Children and Family Services, families affected will be credited for days missed on the following month's tuition.

Before & After School Program

If the YMCA is required to close the Before/After School program due to a mandate from our County Department of Health (DOH) office, families affected will be credited for all days missed/closed on the following month's tuition.

If the school district closes a classroom or the school for longer than 3 days due to a mandated quarantine from the County or State Department of Health (DOH) offices, the YMCA will credit starting on the 4th day the participant's days missed on a quarterly basis (March and June) and determine if a credit is applicable. (Documentation will be required)

If a school district goes virtual/remote for longer then 3 consecutive days the YMCA will credit beginning on the 4th day. Credits will be issued on a quarterly basis (March and June) if applicable.

***PLEASE NOTE THAT AS INFORMATION CHANGES PROCEDURES MAY ALSO CHANGE.
UPDATES WILL BE PROVIDED***



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

PLEASE READ: This Letter Contains New COVID-19 Information and Changes to Mask Requirements

March 1, 2022

Dear Licensed, Registered or Legally-Exempt Group Provider:

This letter contains the most recent requirements regarding COVID-19 protocols required by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) for your child care program(s).

Effective March 2, 2022, OCFS is no longer requiring that masks be worn in your child care program. You may continue to require masks and children or staff should continue to be encouraged to wear a mask if they prefer to do so. Please review Section A below, as it contains all new information.

This letter replaces our most recent COVID-19 guidance, sent to you on February 4, 2022. It is issued in consideration of the most recent guidance issued by the New York State Department of Health and by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) related to school age children and child care settings. Providers are encouraged to read the CDC Guidance, as it contains a lot of information on COVID-19 prevention strategies specific to child care settings and young children. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance.html>.

A. MASKS

Effective March 2, 2022, OCFS is no longer requiring that masks be worn in child care programs and will be not be enforcing our emergency regulations until they expire. The decision to end the child care mask requirement is based on several factors including greatly reduced COVID-19 case rates compared to the heights of the 2021-2022 winter surge. Nothing in this guidance shall prevent an individual municipality (county/city), federal regulator (if applicable, for example for Head Start), or individual child care program from maintaining a masking requirement if it chooses to do so.

Child care programs are strongly encouraged to review and, as necessary, strengthen all health and safety measures to compensate for the end of universal masking. These include promoting vaccination, encouraging COVID testing, improved ventilation, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, excluding sick individuals from program, and proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

With the absence of a universal mask requirement, there are still circumstances when masking should be used in child care programs. Children over the age of two, staff, volunteers, etc., in a child care program should still wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, in the following circumstances:

- When they had close contact with someone with COVID-19 (this means when they were within six feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period) they must wear a mask for 10 days;
- If they are moderately-to-severely immunocompromised and have discussed the need to mask with their healthcare provider(s);
- If they feel more comfortable wearing a mask for personal reasons;
- If they are required to mask by the child care program or by their municipality (city/county);

- If required to mask by any relevant federal licensure or regulator (for example, for Head Start);
- If they completed a minimum 5-day isolation period because of a COVID-19 infection and have returned to program, masks must be worn on days 6-10.

To the extent that persons are expected or required to mask, masks may be removed when eating, drinking, singing, napping, going outside, or playing a wind instrument. When masks are removed for these purposes, maximize social distancing as much as possible (ideally six feet or more).

Additionally, programs should expect and plan for the presence of masked people in child care programs working and learning alongside unmasked people. As such, it is essential that child care programs establish “mask positive” environments so those who choose to or are expected or required to mask feel comfortable.

B. ISOLATION

Individuals who have close contact with someone with COVID-19 are still required to isolate/quarantine, pursuant to the guidance issued by the Department of Health (DOH). A lot of information about how to isolate or quarantine, as well as what to look out for, is available on DOH’s website: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-contact-tracing>.

Isolation is for individuals who have been infected with COVID-19, even if they don’t have symptoms. Isolation is also for people who are suspected of having COVID-19 because of the symptoms they exhibit. You isolate in order to prevent spreading the virus to others. Below answers how long to isolate depending on your circumstances:

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| <p><u>If the person is:</u> A child of any age or adult who has symptoms of COVID-19 and is waiting for a test, regardless of vaccination status</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 must stay out of the child care program for 5 days OR until they receive a negative COVID-19 test (whichever is first). • If test is negative and symptoms are improving they can come back to the child care program • If test is positive, follow isolation rules for a COVID positive (next section). |
| <p><u>If the person is:</u> A child of any age or adult who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone with a positive COVID test must stay out of the child care program for at least 5 days. • Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, and who is not experiencing symptoms must isolate for 5 days. After 5 days, they may return to program if they are age 2 or older and can consistently wear a well-fitting mask at program for days 6-10 (masks required for days 6-10). Day 1 of isolation for someone not experiencing symptoms is the first full day following a positive test. Day zero, is the day you test positive. • Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and who is experiencing symptoms must isolate for <i>at least</i> 5 days. Day 1 of isolation for someone who is experiencing symptoms is the first full day following the day symptoms first began and day zero is the first day |

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| | <p>symptoms began. They may return to the child program after 5 full days AND must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication AND must have improving symptoms before returning to program. They must wear a well fitting mask for days 6-10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone under age 2 or anyone over age 2 but who cannot reliably wear a well-fitted mask for any reason, who has tested positive for COVID-19, must stay out of program for a full 10 days. • Anyone hospitalized with COVID-19 or immunocompromised must isolate for at least 10 days and consult a doctor before returning to the child care program. |
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For home-based programs, if any person (provider, staff, household member) is isolating in the home, they must be completely separated from the child care program while it is operating. If complete separation is not possible, the program may not have any unrelated children in care. If complete separation is not possible, the program must temporarily close.

C. QUARANTINE

Quarantine is for someone who has had **close contact** with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 but **who does not have any symptoms** of COVID-19 and has not tested positive COVID-19. A close contact is someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Below answers who has to quarantine following close contact with COVID-19 and for how long:

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| <p><u>If the person:</u></p> <p>Has received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters (if eligible)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days (tested positive using a viral test)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>An unvaccinated child who is attending school and who also attends a child care program part of the day</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quarantine is required before they may return to program. • They do not need to stay out of the program unless they develop symptoms. • <i>If a person under quarantine develops symptoms, they must follow the isolation guidance that starts on page 1 before returning to program.</i> • They should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days. • If they haven't had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days, testing is encouraged on day 5 when possible. |
| <p><u>If the person:</u></p> <p>Has not received all recommended doses of the vaccine, including boosters (if eligible)</p> <p>OR</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults and children over the age of 2 years (who are not attending school) may return to the child care program after <u>5 days</u> if they are able to wear a well-fitting face mask AND if they are not |

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| is completely unvaccinated | experiencing symptoms. Masks must be worn at program for days 6-10. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children under the age of 2 years, as well as any child who cannot reliably wear a well-fitting mask for any reason, must remain out of the child care program for <u>a full 10 days</u>. They may return to program after 10 days provided they are not experiencing symptoms.• <i>If a person under quarantine develops symptoms, they must follow the isolation guidance that starts on page 1 before returning to program.</i>• If a person under quarantine has not had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days, testing is encouraged on day 5 when possible. |
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For home-based programs, if any person (provider, staff, household member) is quarantining in the home they must be completely separated from the child care program while it is operating. If complete separation is not possible, the program must temporarily close.

Other Information

For all other COVID precautions, please review the recommendations in the CDC’s COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance.html>). The CDC regularly updates this guidance as new information becomes available, so please review it often. This CDC guidance outlines strategies for child care programs to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and maintain safe operations. Many child care programs serve children who are not yet eligible for vaccination. Therefore, the CDC guidance emphasizes using multiple prevention strategies together, including vaccination of staff, families and eligible children, to protect people. The guidance is intended to help programs select appropriate, layered prevention strategies.

Remember that vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination among all eligible individuals can help child care programs protect staff and children in their care, as well as their families.

Sincerely,



Janice M. Molnar, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services