



Early Childhood Education COVID-19 Protocols

Updated 9/1/2021

Protocols for Lancaster Rec Early Childhood Education Programs in Response to COVID-19 *(Will be implemented only during high rates of transmission or as a result of State, Federal or SDoL guidance)*

In addition to the existing requirements for hygiene, handwashing, cleaning and care at our child care centers, our Lancaster Rec staff and families will be required to follow these protocols in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These protocols are subject to change pending COVID-19 Guidelines by the CDC. All Protocols pertain to:

- The Lancaster Rec PKC
- The Lancaster Rec Child Development Center at McCaskey High School

Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up

- Hand hygiene stations will be set up at the upper entrance at the Rec and at the main entrance at McCaskey, so that children can clean their hands before they enter. We will provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol next to parent sign-in sheets. Children will still be required to wash their hands with soap and water once inside the classroom. Keep hand sanitizer out of children's reach and supervise use. Sign-in stations will be placed outside classroom. Sanitary wipes for cleaning pens between each use.
- We are encouraging parents that when possible to stagger arrival and drop off times to limit direct contact with parents as much as possible.
 - One staff member will be stationed at each entrance to greet children, conduct health and temperature checks.

- Another staff person will escort children to their classrooms.
- Parents will not be permitted in the classrooms. A parent will only be permitted in the center for breastfeeding or in cases of emergency. Any parent entering the center will be required to wear a mask.
- At pick up, a staff member will bring children to their parents when they arrive.
- Infants could be transported in their car seats. Store car seats out of children's reach. After drop off, car seats are to be wiped down with a disinfectant wipe. The staff person completing this task must wear gloves and a mask while doing so.
- Ideally, the same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child every day. If possible, older people such as grandparents or those with serious underlying medical conditions should not pick up children, because they are more at risk.

Screen Children upon Arrival

- Temperature and health checks will be conducted at the upper and lower entrances of the Rec and at the main entrance of McCaskey. No entrance will be permitted until after these checks and hand sanitizing is completed.
- Persons who have a fever of 100.4⁰ (38.0⁰C) or above or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the center. Parents will be encouraged to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick. Staff will screen children upon arrival.

Screening Method for Health and Temp Checks

- A designated staff person wearing gloves and a mask will make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or

difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness, and confirm that the child is not experiencing coughing or shortness of breath.

- Take the child's temperature using a non-contact thermometer
- During this check the staff person should not have any physical contact with the child or parent and as much as possible keep 6 foot distance.
- Non-contact thermometers will be clean with an alcohol wipe (or isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab) between each check. You can reuse the same wipe as long as it remains wet.
- Staff person should remove and dispose of gloves, mask and wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water after health checks are completed.

Protocols for Staff

- Staffing/ratio guidelines
 - Maximum groups should not exceed ratios for each age group.
 - No combining classrooms or mixing children
 - Teachers should remain with the same group of children throughout the day- no floating of teachers is permitted.
 - All staff will wear masks while in the child care center.
 - If a staff member travels out of state to an area with a high rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases and which is designated by the Pennsylvania Governor as a high risk state, the staff member must quarantine for a period of 14 days upon their return to Pennsylvania

Staff or Child Illness

- Any staff member or child should stay home if they are ill with fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath OR if they have been in close contact with a person or child testing positive for COVID-19.
- Staff/children with COVID-19 must be isolated for a minimum of 7 days after symptom onset and 72 hours after their fever resolves without fever reducing medicines. For example, if the fever and symptoms resolve on day 7, the staff child can return on day 10.
- Staff/children with household contacts with adults or children with COVID-19 must be quarantined for 14 days after their last household exposure. For most, this will be 14 days after the household contact with COVID-19 is released from isolation.
- If a child or staff person is diagnosed with COVID-19 or is suspected of being infected the center would need to report to the State Health Department and the Department of Human Services. These agencies would make the decision if the center would close and if so for how long.
- In the event a child or staff tests positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of being infected the Director of Early Childhood Education will send a communication to other parents (the staff or child would not be identified) informing them of a confirmed/suspected case and next steps being taken by the center.

If a child becomes ill at the center the following steps will be taken:

1. Staff member will be designated to move child to separate area.

2. Designated staff member will wear appropriate PPE - gloves, mask. Child if not already wearing a mask will be given one to wear.
3. Designated staff member will move child to separate area away from other children and staff.
4. Child's parent will be notified and child MUST be pick up within 60 minutes.
5. Lead teacher will notify the Director of Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Specialist.
6. Wait 24 hours before cleaning and sanitizing area where sick child was placed.

Protocols for Children and Families

- Siblings will be grouped in the same classroom or group (when possible)
- Children are not permitted to bring materials or toys from home. When materials are brought to the center, they must first be washed at the center prior to being used. This includes all bedding and clothing materials.
- Children in the ECE over two years of age program will be required to wear masks. No child under the age of two will be permitted to wear a mask. Children will not wear masks while eating or napping
- If a child or family member living in the same household travels out of state to an area with a high rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases and which is designated by the Pennsylvania Governor as a high risk state, the staff member must quarantine for a period of 14 days upon their return to Pennsylvania.

Protocols for Classrooms

- At naptime, cots are to be placed so that children are lying head to toe. Cots are not to be placed side by side. When possible a barrier should be placed between cots but not so to block supervision.
- Cot sheets will be removed each day and placed in separate containers.
- All sheets and bedding at McCaskey will be washed on site weekly and sent home at the Rec each Friday.
- Children from different classrooms cannot share toys or materials. Children in the same classroom may share materials.
- A separate space in the classroom should be designated to separate a child if they become ill.

Protocols for Playgrounds, Gym or areas Designated for Large Motor Activity

- Only one group of children on the playground or in the gym at a time. Prior to using the playground or gym and in between group use of these areas material should be cleaned
 - A specific staff member of each classroom should be designated to clean the playground and gym equipment including high touch areas of the climbing structure and toys before entry and after the class leaves.

Protocols for Meal Preparation

- Food prep should not be done by any staff who had at any time during the day changed diapers.
- While eating meals children will be seated at least 6 feet apart.

Clean and Disinfect

Caring for Our Children (CFOC) provides national standards for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfection of educational facilities for children. Toys that can be put in the mouth should be cleaned and sanitized (see below). Other hard surfaces, including diaper changing stations, door knobs and floors can be disinfected.

Intensify cleaning and disinfection efforts:

- The center will develop a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Routinely clean, sanitize and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games. This may also include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily such as doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, nap pads, toilet training potties, desks, chairs, cubbies and playground structures.
- Use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label. For disinfection, most common EPA-registered, fragrance-free household disinfectants should be effective. If surfaces are dirty, they should be

cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for concentration, application method, and contact time for all cleaning and disinfection products.

- If possible, provide EPA-registered disposable wipes to child care providers and other staff members so that commonly used surfaces such as keyboards, desks and remote controls can be wiped down before use.
- All cleaning materials should be kept secure and out of reach of children.
- Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children from inhaling toxic fumes.

Clean and Sanitize Toys

- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. Clean with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with an EPA-registered disinfectant, rinse again and air-dry. You may also clean in a mechanical dishwasher. Be mindful of items more likely to be placed in a child's mouth, like play food, dishes and utensils.
- Machine washable cloth toys should be used by one individual at a time or should not be used at all. These toys should be laundered before being used by another child.
- Do not share toys with other groups of infants or toddlers, unless they are washed and sanitized before being moved from one group to the other.

- Set aside toys that need to be cleaned. Place in a dish pan with soapy water or put in a separate container marked for “soiled toys.” Keep dish pan and water out of reach from children to prevent risk of drowning. Washing with soapy water is the ideal method for cleaning. Try to have enough toys so that the toys can be rotated through cleanings.
- Children’s books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.

Clean and Disinfect Bedding

Use bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) that can be washed. Keep each child’s bedding separate, and consider storing in individually labeled bins, cubbies, or bags. Cots and mats should be labeled for each child. Bedding that touches a child’s skin should be cleaned weekly or before use by another child.

Need to Reach Us?

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