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Children's Center_Return to Work July 6th Update

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Dear Families:

I hope this email finds you and your family healthy and safe. I appreciate your patience and partnership throughout the past several weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am in the process of submitting a return to work application through the University of Maine Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Providing that the application is approved, we will be reopening The Children's Center in accordance with all federal and state CDC/DHHS, University of Maine System, and University of Maine guidance and recommendations.

The Children's Center is hoping to reopen on Monday, July 6 with changes in services, and health and safety protocols. For the first month, we will be taking fewer children for social distancing purposes. Some parents have already indicated that they are able to make other arrangements until we are at full capacity. Those families that need childcare in July are asked to complete the attached form.

In July, childcare will be available Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. We apologize for any inconvenience this new schedule may cause. We look forward to being at full capacity with regular hours as soon as state and federal health and safety protocols allow us to do so.

Families will have a scheduled drop-off and pickup times to reduce large gatherings. All children will be screened at drop-off. If any of the following symptoms are present, the child will not be allowed to stay.

- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Fever (body temperature above 100.4 degrees F)**
- **Chills**
- **Repeated shaking with chills**
- **Muscle pain**
- **Headache**
- **Sore throat**
- **New loss of taste or smell**

Children with symptoms during the day will be isolated and caregivers will be expected to pick their child up immediately.

Staff will have similar protocols. Please be aware that it is possible that if staff members become symptomatic, we may have to close the program for the day due to staff and child ratios. This would most likely be without much notice and may be inconvenient, so please be prepared.

Staff members will be wearing face masks; please prepare your children for this prior to drop-off. Under DHHS guidance, children under 2 years of age are not permitted to wearing face masks in our programs. Children age 2 and older can wear a face mask if parents prefer. We cannot force children to keep their face masks on; we can only encourage them to wear them.

The University of Maine is committed to ensuring the health and safety of our community, and is continually monitoring the public health protocols of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Maine Center for Disease Control and the Maine Emergency Management Agency. The seriousness of the coronavirus pandemic is necessitating constant decisions and revisions of plans as we seek to ensure the welfare of our community and as we do our part in averting the spread of this virus.

The Children's Center is taking these proactive steps to help ensure the safety of our children, families and employees. We will continue to seek and implement best practices and protocols from DHHS and Maine CDC. We will ensure the facility will be sanitized and disinfected on a regular schedule.

Please return the attached form for July childcare by Wednesday, June 10. More information will be coming in the next few weeks as updates are available.

Thank you for all of the support that you have shown The Children's Center. Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have.

Take care,

Kim