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Children's Center_Safe Return Update-Toddlers

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Dear Families,

We are excited to have children return to the Children's Center. We will be having a small number of children in July and many of you have requested care in August. We will do our best to accommodate your family's needs.

We do have some changes that will be in effect on July 6. We will be open for childcare from 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday–Friday. All staff and children will complete a symptom checklist upon arrival to the Children's Center each day. They will not stay at the childcare center if they have symptoms, including 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. We will not administer Tylenol or any other over-the-counter medications for your child.

The university is following and adhering to federal and state CDC guidance that can be found [online](#).

If you have family members or guests coming from another state or country who are in contact with your family, you will need to follow the [Maine guidance for travelers](#). Please also adhere to the guidance if you and your family travel out of state or the country.

There may be cases when a Children's Center program will need to close for the day or longer if staff become symptomatic. Please prepare for a backup childcare solution. If this situation arises, we will do the best to communicate with families to allow time to find alternative child care.

Families will not be allowed to enter the program buildings. Children will be met on the playgrounds by staff members. There will be a designated area for drop-off. Families are asked to socially distance while waiting and allow extra time for intake. Attached is a DHHS checklist of questions we will be asking each morning at drop-off. Your child's temperature will be taken and recorded on the checklist.

Please bring a backpack or bag that will not be harmed if sprayed by a disinfectant spray. All outer bags will be sprayed at drop-off by a staff member as part of the morning routine and children's hands will be washed upon arrival. In the case of rain, staff will come to your vehicle to assist the child.

Staff will be using face coverings unless precluded for a medical reason. We ask that children over age 2 wear face coverings, but we will not force them to. For pickup, we ask that you call the program when you arrive and a staff member will accompany your child out of the facility to meet you.

Water fountains will not be used at this time. We ask that you provide your child with an assigned water bottle. If you do not have access to one, we will provide one for your child. We

will provide breakfast and snack, but will not be eating in our traditional family style. Food will be measured and served individually to each child by a staff member wearing gloves and a mask. Please try to pick up in a timely manner to allow our staff to leave on time, and apologize for any inconveniences this may cause you and your family.

Also note that a fee increase of \$10 per week is effective Sept. 1, 2020. This fee increase was approved prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The weekly fees will be \$175 for the Infant and Toddler programs and \$145 for the Preschool programs.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you all for the patience and support that you have shown me and the staff during this challenging time. And know that the health and well-being of your children is our primary concern.

Sincerely,

Kim

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