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Children's Center_Updated Protocol for Close Contacts-Chapel

Kimberly Dodge-Cummings

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Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

Updated Protocol for Close Contacts-Chapel

1 message

Kimberly Dodge <kimberly.dodge@maine.edu>

Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 2:32 PM

Dear Families,

The Children's Center has a unique situation: we need to align our COVID-19 health and safety policies with the Maine CDC, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, and the University of Maine. The Children's Center has continued to operate conservatively in implementing COVID guidance for both the children and staff. As all of you know, if staff members are out due to an illness, this impacts the child-to-staff ratio, which may result in program adjustments.

The CDC no longer recommends routine screening testing in early childhood education programs and K-12 schools. However, at a high COVID-19 Community Level, K-12 schools and early childhood education programs can consider implementing screening testing for students and staff.

Masking at the Children's Center is not required unless indicated by the Maine CDC guidelines related to a positive case returning from isolation. Masking children under 2 years of age is not allowed. When a child is a close contact, then the close contact must wear face masks for 10 whole days. Children with close contacts must also test on days six and 11. Day 0 is the day of last exposure to someone with COVID-19. Day 1 is the first full day after the last exposure.

Families can choose whether they want their children to wear face coverings during outdoor play periods. This option may change depending on new guidelines and the number of positive cases. Please ask the staff for additional tests if your family wishes to have your child tested more often.

Finally, when your child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease, including hand, foot, and mouth, please make me or your child's teacher aware. I will email families the appropriate guidance from "Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools." To notify families, the disease must be confirmed by a medical official. Please get in touch with me if your child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease and you do not see a notice sent to families in the class.

Take care,

Kim

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