

Dear Families,

Beginning Oct. 19, Children's Center service hours will be 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday. Our health and safety protocols remain in effect. Families are reminded that there may be days when children will have to be picked up early if ratios cannot be maintained due to staff and student employee illness. There also may be cases when a program will need to close for the day or longer if staff become symptomatic. Families are asked to have backup childcare solutions.

With fall weather, we will shift our morning child drop off from the playground to building foyers. At the infant and toddler programs, we will use the front entrance. The same protocols are in effect, including taking each child's temperature prior to entering the building. Please have one adult per child for drop off and pick up, and be mindful of others waiting to enter. We recommend waiting in your vehicles if possible to help facilitate the required 6 feet of social distance between families entering or leaving the facility. Please keep pick up and drop off times to a maximum of 15 minutes.

We have started to increase our enrollment by filling slots with children from our waitlist. In addition, we do have some families holding their spaces to send their children at a later date.

New families that are enrolling are now allowed 15-minute program tours following these protocols:

- Parent has temperature check, applies hand sanitizer and/or puts on rubber gloves (provided) before entering the building
- Face coverings and social distancing required
- Anything touched will be disinfected immediately following the tour
- Program staff and children will be on the playground during the tour

Per DHHS licensing, we will continue to follow the guidelines regarding illness in group child care settings. That includes guidance from the [federal](#) and [state](#) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I want to thank all of the families that have been impacted by the new rules — some of you multiple times. We will continue to ask that you receive confirmation that your child can attend group childcare when presenting the following symptoms. I recognize that this is an inconvenience, especially as we are entering cold season. Please be proactive and provide a doctor's note if you plan to leave your child with a runny nose and cough.

Guidelines for Children in Group Child Care Settings:

Minimize the risk of disease introduction or transmission by requiring every person entering the facility to be screened for any signs or symptoms of viral infection for as long as the pandemic is active. These signs and symptoms include:

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

- Congestion
- Runny nose (in conjunction with any other symptom)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Children who present with symptoms when entering the facility or during the day should be sent home immediately. Children who present with symptoms during the day should be isolated immediately and sent home with their caregiver immediately. (Child needs to be picked up within 30 minutes.)

Children and staff with symptoms will be evaluated by their medical providers.

- If testing for COVID-19 is not recommended for the child or staff based on medical judgment, they may return to the childcare facility based on your healthcare provider recommendations and must be symptom-free for 24 hours with no fever-reducing medication.
- If COVID-19 testing is negative, they may return based on your healthcare provider recommendations after they are symptom-free for 24 hours with no fever-reducing medication.
- If COVID-19 testing is positive, CDC guidelines should be followed for isolation, and the child or staff member is not to return until the isolation period is complete (isolation period is at least ten days from when symptoms began, and three days being symptom-free with no fever-reducing medication) or a negative PCR COVID-19 test after the isolation period.

Guidelines may change based on the level of community transmission.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I thank all of you again for the support you have shown the staff and me during this time.

Sincerely,

Kim