

STAY AND PLAY PROCEDURAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

STAY AND PLAY REOPENING:

These are policies and procedures put in place to protect the health and safety of children in care while maintaining a safe environment for child care employees and families. Through implementation of these strategies our intent is to mitigate the further spread of COVID-19/any pandemic illness.

We will work to keep parents informed of new procedures and expectations.

TRANSMISSION AND SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19: (FROM CDC & OCDEL)

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, prevention practices and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles that we will cover below.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-10 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

STAY and PLAY PRACTICES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES:

All Stay and Play Staff/State College Presbyterian Church staff are required to be vaccinated.

*The following is adapted from guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH)

All guidance below is strongly recommended in order to adhere to guidelines published by the CDC and DOH.

Drop-off/Arrival Procedures:

STAY & PLAY WILL:

- Stagger arrival and drop off times and plan to limit direct contact with parents as much as possible. After temperature check & handwashing is done, Parents will be asked to wait with their child in the entry hallway until their child(ren)'s teacher(s) receive them from you. Staff will escort child to their classroom.
- Designate and communicate a primary entrance for all families to use for Drop-off and Pick-up. (*currently the parking lot entrance*)

- Encourage the same parent, or designated person, should drop off and pick up the child every day. Take the temperature of the child being dropped-off. If a temperature of either the child or the person dropping the child off is over 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit, Stay and Play staff will review our screening policy with them and deny admittance to that family per the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH)
- Record child's admittance (or denial of admittance) and who brought the child to Stay and Play that day.
- Offer a hand hygiene station at the entrance of the facility, so that children, staff, and parents can clean their hands before they enter the classroom. If a sink with soap and water is not available, we will provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Keep hand sanitizer out of children's reach and supervise use. If possible, place Drop-off stations outside, and provide sanitary wipes for cleaning items as needed.
- Designate a staff person to be the drop off/pick up volunteer to walk all children to their classroom, and at the end of the day, walk all children back to their parents for dismissal/pick-up.

Screening Procedures:

The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to prevent it from getting inside the facility.

Child care providers will:

- Encourage parents to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick.
- Not allow anyone, including staff and children, to enter the child care facility if:
 - They have a fever of 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit or above, or other signs of illness.
 - They have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.
 - They have recently had *potential exposure* with a person with COVID-19.
 - A *potential exposure* means being in a household or having close contact within 6 feet of an individual with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case for at least 15 minutes during the case's infectious period.
 - Persons with COVID-19 are considered infectious from 2 days before onset of symptom until the end of isolation (discussed below in "Discontinuing at home isolation").
- Continue to monitor staff and child health throughout the day.
- Immediately isolate a child or staff member that develops fever, chills, shortness of breath, new cough, or new loss of taste or smell and send them and any family members home as soon as possible.
- While waiting for a sick child to be picked up, have a caregiver stay with the child in a place isolated from others. If the child has symptoms of COVID-19, the caregiver should remain as far away as safely as possible from the child (preferably at least 6 feet) while maintaining supervision. The caregiver should wear a mask/ face covering. If the child is over the age of 2 and can tolerate a mask/face covering, the child should also wear a mask/face covering.

Routine Disinfecting/Sanitization Procedures:

Stay and Play will post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., facility doors, lobby, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of COVID-19 such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a mask/ face covering.

Intensified Cleaning and Disinfection Efforts:

- Stay and Play will develop a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Stay and Play will routinely clean, sanitize, and/or 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, toilets, tables, chairs, cubbies, and Big Room equipment.
- Stay and Play will use a sanitizer or disinfectant for cleaning.
- If surfaces are dirty, they will be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to sanitization or disinfection.
- All cleaning materials must be kept secure and out of reach of children per regulations.
- Cleaning products will not be used close to children, and staff will ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children from inhaling toxic fumes.

Cleaning and Sanitizing Toys:

- Toys will be cleaned and sanitized as necessary – during use in the classroom. As they are able, teachers will use items for classroom activity that can be used by individual children and discarded after each use.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions will be set aside until they are cleaned and disinfected by hand by staff or run through the dishwasher. They will be cleaned with water and detergent, rinsed thoroughly, disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant (per instructions for that specific disinfectant) and air-dried. OR they may also be cleaned in a mechanical dishwasher.
- Machine washable cloth toys will be washed on a regular basis – daily / as needed. These toys will be laundered before being used by another child.
- Toys will not be shared with other groups unless they are washed and sanitized properly before being moved from one group to the other.
- Toys that need to be cleaned will be set aside in a separate container marked for “soiled toys.” This container will be kept out of reach from children. Staff will wash with soapy water, as it is the ideal method for cleaning. Staff will try to have enough toys available so that the toys can be rotated through cleanings.

Social Distancing Practices:

- As much as possible, child care classes will include the same group of children each day.
- As much as possible, the same staff will remain with the same group each day.
- We will limit the mixing of children by keeping groups/classes separate for special activities such as music and gross motor play to the best of our ability.

Face Masks: The use of face masks will be optional for the 2022-2023 school year. If the community level of COVID-19 cases is HIGH, the Director & the Advisory Team will meet and review our masking optional policy and revise if needed.

Mask wearing is optional for staff and children.

Face coverings will not be placed on:

- Anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance;
- Children younger than 2 years of age

- Anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering due to developmental, medical or behavioral reasons.

Staying Home When Sick and Getting Tested:

Children and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of our program and prevent spread to others.

The overlap between COVID-19 symptoms with other common illnesses means that some people with symptoms of COVID-19 could be ill with something else. This is even more likely in young children, who typically have multiple viral illnesses each year. Although COVID-19, colds, and flu illnesses have similar symptoms, they are different diseases. Children who have symptoms of infectious illness or certain symptoms of COVID-19 may not attend.

Families are encouraged to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick. Parents/Guardians should pay particular attention to:

- Fever (temperature 100.3 °F or higher)
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for a child with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, see if there is a change from their usual cough)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or stomachache
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

People who have a fever of 100.3 °F (38.0 °C) or above or other signs of illness will not be admitted to our facility.

When a child is home sick Stay and Play should be informed of any symptoms a child displays as well as the outcome of communication with medical professional or a COVID-19 test.

The length of time the child should stay out of child care depends on whether the child has COVID-19 or another illness. In most instances, those who have COVID-19 can be around others after:

- 5 full days since symptoms first appeared (with start of symptoms being Day 0) **and**
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving **and**

Children will be required to wear a high-quality mask for 10 days while at Stay and Play

DEALING WITH CONFIRMED POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES AND EXPOSURE TO COVID-19:
The following pertains to all child care staff and children at our child care facility.

For Confirmed Positive COVID-19 cases:

- A child being tested for COVID-19 may not return to Stay and Play until results are back. If confirmed positive, Stay and Play will follow the “**Discontinuing at home isolation**” guidance below for timelines on returning the child to the childcare setting.
- The facility will close (in total or partially) as necessary following a confirmed positive COVID-19 case so that the facility can be cleaned and disinfected properly per the direction of the Dept. of Health.
- The Administration will inform parents of enrolled children when there is an exposure of a communicable disease or an outbreak of an unusual illness that represents a public

health emergency in the opinion of the Department of Health as per 55 Pa. Code §3270.136(b), §3280.136(b), and §3290.136(b).

*An outbreak is defined as a single positive COVID-19 case.

Stay and Play is required to report positive COVID-19 cases to the Department of Health (DOH) as per 55 Pa. Code §3270.136(d), §3280.136(d), and §3290.136(d). We must also report positive COVID-19 cases to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS).

- Stay and Play will use a direct communication (in person or by phone) to inform child care staff of positive COVID-19 cases.

Exposure to a person who tests positive for COVID-19:

Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of the individual who tests positive for COVID-19 for a cumulative period of 15 minutes or more. It also means coming into direct contact with droplets from a COVID-19 positive individual. Persons who test positive are considered infectious 48 hours before the onset of symptoms. Persons testing positive but do not have symptoms are considered infectious 2 days after exposure (if known) or starting 2 days before test date (if exposure is unknown).

If a household member or a child is exposed to an individual who tests positive for COVID- 19:

- They MUST wear a high quality mask to enter Stay and Play until meeting requirements laid out in “Discontinuing at home isolation” below.
- If a child becomes ill at Stay and Play, the administration will notify the child’s parent as soon as possible.
- The Stay and Play administration will inform parents of enrolled children when there is a suspected outbreak of a communicable disease or an outbreak of an unusual illness that represents a public health emergency in the opinion of the DOH as per 55 Pa. Code §3270.136(b), §3280.136(b), and §3290.136(b).
- The facility must report when a staff person, child, or household member is exposed to a positive COVID-19 case to the DHS and DOH.
- The Stay and Play administration will inform child care staff of possible exposure to a positive COVID-19 case in person or by phone.

However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria does NOT need to provide a negative test.

- Someone who has a documented COVID-19 illness within the previous 90 days **and**
- Has recovered **and**
- Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

DISCONTINUING AT HOME ISOLATION:

There are different strategies for discontinuing home isolation. Options include a symptom based (i.e., time-since-illness-onset and time-since-recovery strategy) or test based strategy. Stay and Play will work with families to utilize the strategy that is best for them and the facility and that maintains the health and safety of children in care. Stay and Play will also defer to the direction of the Dept. of Health given directly to a parent /guardian for when to end quarantine if that quarantine is not less than our policies dictate.

Discontinuation of isolation and return to Stay and Play may occur under the following conditions:

For Individuals with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed by a medical professional to care for themselves at home:

1). Symptom-Based Strategy

- At least 24 hours have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**
- At least 5 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* and are symptom free for at least 24 hours (Day 0 being the day symptoms appeared or positive test result)
- Can return on day 6 and must wear a high quality mask until day 11

2). Or as Directed by the Dept. of Health

For Persons Who Tested Positive but have NOT had COVID-19 Symptoms in Home Isolation:

1). Time-Based Strategy

Persons with confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms and were directed by a medical professional to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation and return to Stay and Play after 5 days of isolation (day 0 being the day of the first positive test).

Can return on day 6 and must wear a high quality mask until day 11

3). Or as Directed by the Dept. of Health

For persons who HAVE been exposed, HAVE NOT tested Positive and have no Symptoms:

1) Time-Based Strategy

- Must wear a high-quality mask indoors of Stay and Play for 10 days from first exposure (Day 0 being day of exposure).
- **OR** Children under the age of 2 or those who cannot mask- must quarantine for 10 whole days (Day 0 being day of exposure). After receiving a negative test result (at-home test or PCR must occur on day 6 or later) and remain symptom-free the person can return to Stay & Play. Will need to show proof of negative test to the office.

***If a person develops symptoms, then the symptom-based strategy for an individual “who have symptoms” above should be used.**

Or as Directed by the Dept. of Health

The symptom-based, time-based, and direction from the Department of Health may result in different timeframes for discontinuation of isolation post-recovery. Any individual who becomes ill should contact their medical provider for advice or testing. For any individual who has been

exposed to COVID-19 as described above, or who tests positive for COVID-19, follow the information outlined above.

REPORTING:

Stay and Play is required to report positive COVID-19 cases to the DOH as per 55 Pa. Code §3270.136(d), §3280.136(d), and §3290.136(d).

To report confirmed positive cases of COVID-19, please contact DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH or 1-877- 724-3258.

And it is required that this information be reported immediately to our Certification Representative at the DHS or the appropriate Regional Office.

In all instances when reporting to DHS, Stay and Play will provide:

- The name of the facility
- The address of the facility including the county
- The number of cases
- If the positive case is a staff person, child, or family member (or someone who lives with the family).
- For questions regarding COVID-19, isolation, and quarantine, please contact DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH.

*Updated by Stay & Play 8/17/22