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COVID PLAN UPDATED 02/24/2022

Due to the continuing COVID-19 health crisis, Hoboken Day Care 100, with guidance from the CDC, Hoboken Office of Emergency Management, Hoboken Health Department, New Jersey Office of Licensing (Division of Children and Families) and other health consultants, has created operations plans tailored to our facility and our community. This guidance document outlines COVID-19 public health recommendations for the childcare setting. This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19 and is subject to change as additional information is known.

As centers continue to operate, they should consider how best to structure services to minimize risk to staff and children in line with the New Jersey DCF guidelines. Using multiple layers of prevention strategies is critically important because Early Childhood Education/Child Care (ECE) programs may not be able to consistently implement key strategies, such as physical distancing or masking, at all times.

Any changes to this plan will be sent to parents as soon as possible.

Please read the following document and send me a quick message to let me know that you have read and understand it. Thank you!

VACCINATIONS

The CDC's COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Educations/Child Care Programs emphasizes implementing layered COVID-19 prevention strategies to protect all individuals, especially those who are not up to date with vaccination.

Most ECE programs serve children in an age group that is not yet eligible for vaccination. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes using multiple COVID-19 prevention strategies together to protect children and adults in ECE programs. According to the CDC, everyone 5 years and older who is at least 2 weeks post the last dose of their primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine is considered fully vaccinated. Individuals are up to date with vaccinations when they have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible. CDC recommends that people remain up to date with their vaccines, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised or booster doses at regular time points. If childcare centers are unable to determine the vaccination status of individuals, those individuals should be considered not fully vaccinated.

ALL staff members at Hoboken Day Care 100 are currently fully vaccinated and many are boosted. Anyone hired from 02/14/2022 on will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Hoboken Day Care 100 will not accept any exemptions to this policy for staff members. There is no option to test weekly rather than be vaccinated at Hoboken Day Care 100.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AND COMMUNICABLE ILLNESS

All of the cleaners and sanitizers being used are EPA approved for use around children. None of the chemicals used have harsh smells. All hard surfaces will be cleaned and treated. All walls will be wiped down. All floors will be mopped throughout the day. Toys will be soaked and/or wiped down. All cloth items that can be washed will be cleaned on sanitizing cycles. Cleaning is so ingrained in the staff that they are able to do these things throughout the day and it does not affect childcare. HEPA filters will be on throughout the day every day. Windows will be opened to help facilitate air flow.

HDC100 has more than adequate supplies to support hand hygiene as well as routine cleaning/sanitizing of objects and surfaces. We have ample stock of sanitizer, cleaning supplies, hand soap, child-safe surface cleaners, etc. We have strict cleaning, sanitizing and handwashing guidelines. Our new policies and protocols enhance these guidelines and help to ensure that we are doing everything possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable illnesses.

Regular and frequent handwashing will continue. Employees shall wear gloves whenever appropriate and remove them after each use to prevent cross-contamination. Employees shall wash hands upon arrival at the child care center; immediately before handling food, preparing bottles, or feeding children; after handling food; before handling clean utensils or equipment; after using the toilet, assisting a child in using the toilet, or changing diapers; after handling of body fluids (e.g., saliva, nasal secretions, vomitus, feces, urine, blood, secretions from sores, pustulant discharge); after handling soiled items such as garbage, mops, cloths, and clothing; whenever hands are visibly soiled; after removing disposable gloves.

COMMUNICATION

Childcare centers should develop a plan for infectious disease outbreaks including COVID-19. Staff and families should be informed of policies for ill staff and children including isolation, exclusion and notification of positive cases or outbreaks. Please see the attached chart for the latest exclusion protocols. Families should understand what actions they need to take should their child become symptomatic or be exposed to COVID-19 while in childcare.

Designate a staff member to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Communicate to staff and family members the process for contacting the designee. Miss Suzanne will be the primary contact for reporting any illnesses including COVID-19. Proof of testing, when required, must be given to Miss Suzanne in a timely manner. Please take a look

at our general Illness Policy on hobokendaycare100.com under Important Info and make yourself aware of exclusion policies for other communicable diseases.

MASKS

While masking continues to be an important part of the layered prevention strategies central to the prevention of SARS-CoV-2 transmission; and CDC continues to recommend universal indoor masking by all children (ages 2 years and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to childcare centers; circumstances in New Jersey have improved to the point where relaxation of universal masking rules in childcare settings can generally occur. Childcare administrators should be prepared for the emergence of new variants or substantial waning immunity that could once again lead to greater morbidity, mortality, and disruption, and require returning to additional mitigation measures.

As of March 7, 2022, the state mandate requiring universal masking in childcare centers will expire and individual childcare centers will be able to make the determination as to whether universal masking is appropriate for their center. In making this decision, consultation with the local health department is recommended. Many factors may go into this decision, including, but not limited to the center's ability to maintain physical distancing, the age and behaviors of the children, the ability to regularly screen children and staff (including screening testing), vaccination rates of staff and eligible attendees, ability to perform effective contact tracing of cases, ability to ensure appropriate exclusion of children and staff who have been exposed to or who have COVID-19, and ability to maintain adequate ventilation.

As of March 7, 2022, Hoboken Day Care 100 will not mandate mask wearing for staff or children. If parents wish to have their child continue to wear masks we will support you in your decision and encourage your children to wear them properly. Staff members can decide whether or not they would like to continue mask wearing.

Anyone over the age of two who is diagnosed as positive for COVID-19 will be required to mask upon their return according to the attached chart.

Please note that, in the event of a breakout or high level of community transmission Hoboken Day Care 100 reserves the right to reinstate mask wearing for staff and those children over the age of 2 so as to try and avoid any outbreaks or closures to either entire classrooms or the center as a whole.

PICK UP/DROP OFF

As of March 7, 2022 parents will once again be allowed to drop off their children inside the center. Parents should not enter rooms in which their children are not enrolled. Parents shall bring their child to their classroom. For Infant 1 and Infant 2, I ask that you bring your babies to the classroom door for drop off but do not enter the classroom space so we do not have to continuously clean the floors. Parents in Toddlers and Preschool can bring their child directly to their classrooms. I kindly ask that you limit your time within the classroom at drop off so as not to take the teachers attention off of the children and allow them to get their morning routine

started. Feel free to speak to the teachers with any concerns or reminders that you have for your child. If you have a matter of great concern that requires more time please message me or speak to me and I will set up a time for you to speak to the teachers at length.

For afternoon pick up we will continue dismissing children to you outside the center. Please ring the bell and a staff member will bring your child to you.

REQUIRE SICK CHILDREN AND STAFF TO REMAIN HOME

While I may be answering the door in the mornings to allow parents to bring their children in, we will now switch to self-screening for temperatures and identifying symptoms. Parents are now required to take their child's temperature each morning and look for symptoms of illness. You can report this to me on the Remind App if your child has a temperature or any symptoms that would exclude them from coming to the center.

Children with the following symptoms should be promptly isolated from others and excluded from childcare:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever 100.4, chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR At least one of the following symptoms: new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

All children will be monitored, as always, while at the center for symptoms of COVID-19 and other communicable illnesses. All staff members shall self monitor for symptoms of sickness. Anyone who is not feeling well will not be permitted to attend school or work. Communicate to parents the importance of keeping children home when they are sick. If your child has been tested please provide Miss Suzanne with a copy of the results to keep on file. It is better to err on the side of safety and get tested "just in case" when your doctor deems it appropriate. If someone gets sick or comes into contact with someone who is Covid positive please inform Miss Suzanne, as well.

Communicate the importance of being vigilant for symptoms and staying in touch with administration if they start to feel sick or see a child who may be sick. This should apply to all sickness and not just COVID. If your child is clearly uncomfortable due to coughing, an overly runny or stuffy nose, etc. and cannot fully participate in their classes they should stay home until they are feeling better. Even with the strictest measures of cleaning and sanitizing germs spread very quickly in daycare settings. Keeping one child home for sickness may mean the difference between all or most children contacting that illness.

Establish procedures to ensure children and staff who come to the center sick or become sick while at the facility are sent home as soon as possible. As you know, we will message you on the Remind App and call you if we believe that your child has the criteria to be sent home (which can be found in the Illness Policy). Children must be picked up within one hour. No exceptions.

Keep sick children and staff separate from well children until they can be sent home. Any child who is found to be exhibiting any signs or symptoms of being sick will be kept in Suzanne's office until they can be picked up. If Suzanne has left for the day the child will be kept in the main office until they can be picked up. If Suzanne and Theresa are not here the child will sit with Amelia in the break room.

On January 4, 2022, CDC updated COVID-19 isolation and quarantine recommendations with shorter isolation (for asymptomatic infected and mildly ill people) and quarantine periods of 5 days to focus on the period when a person is most infectious (followed by continued masking for an additional 5 days). Individuals who are unable to consistently wear a mask (including everyone <2 years old) should continue to isolate/quarantine for 10 days.

Individuals regardless of vaccination status, who test positive or individuals with COVID19 symptoms who have not been tested and do not have an alternative diagnosis from their healthcare provider should:

- Stay home for at least 5 full days after the onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic after the positive test (day of symptoms is day 0; if asymptomatic, day the test was performed is day 0).
- If they have no symptoms or symptoms resolve after 5 days and are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours, they can leave their home and should; Wear a mask when around others at home and in public (indoors and outdoors) for an additional 5 days. For these additional 5 days, centers should have a plan to ensure adequate distance during those activities (i.e., eating) when mask wearing is not possible.
- Children and staff who are unable or unwilling to consistently wear a mask when around others (including all children under 2 years of age) should continue to isolate at home for a full 10 days.

Exposed close contacts who have no COVID-19 symptoms in the following groups do not need to be excluded from childcare:

- Up to date with vaccination.
- Had COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a viral test).

CARING FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

When diapering a child adhere to Department of Licensing guidelines. Staff will wash their hands and the child's hands before they begin. Staff are to put on new gloves for each child and dispose of them after each change is finished. Staff will put on gloves, clean the child, remove trash to the trash can, replace the child's diaper, wash child's hands, tear off changing table paper, clean changing areas with Sani-Cloth wipes and wash hands.

It is important to comfort crying, sad and/or anxious children and they often need to be held. We completely understand that when the children come back/start with us we may be turning their world upside down. There will be separation anxiety, sadness and trying to get back on a schedule. We will do our best to comfort every child during this trying time. To the extent possible when washing, feeding or holding young children staff can protect themselves by wearing uniform tops and t-shirt tops. Long hair should be pulled up. Staff must wash their hands, neck and anywhere else possibly touched by a child's secretions. If secretions are on the child's clothes staff should change the child and wash hands again. Parents will be asked to have at least two changes of clothes for each child in case they need to be changed. Contaminated clothes will be washed immediately in the sanitizing cycle of the washing machine. The only exception to this is clothing that is very soiled with vomit or poop which shall be sent home for you to clean.

These are just guidelines and procedures that we will follow for the time being (as of 02/24/2022). Should we be given any further instructions we will add/edit what is listed here and make all parents aware. .

This document will be posted on the hobokendaycare100.com page and a link will be provided in the Remind App as well. If anyone has any questions or suggestions please reach out to Miss Suzanne.

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_guidance_reopening_childcare.pdf