



This policy replaces the policy published in the Family Handbook. Unfortunately, we have neither the staff nor the space to provide care for ill children.

Please do not bring your child if he or she is unable to participate in all Center activities, including outdoor play. If your child is too sick to go outside, he or she is too sick to be at the Center.

Overview

We follow the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Center for Disease Control, the PA Department of Health, and the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning for exclusion of ill children and have revised our policies in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. As this policy evolves, families will be notified via email and posted announcements in the Center lobby.

Briefly, children who have any of the following symptoms may not attend:

- Fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit)
- Shortness of breath
- Chills or repeated shaking with chills
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting (stomach content) two or more times within 24 hours
- Skin rashes with fever or behavior change
- Discharging sores
- Contagious diseases such as strep throat, until appropriate medical treatment is given
- Children with head lice, upon identification
- Fatigue, to the point that the child is unable to participate in Center activities

If your child becomes ill while at the Center, we will notify you, and you will be expected to arrange to pick your child up within an hour. If unable to reach you immediately by phone, we call emergency contacts until we can speak with a person. Anyone sick will be separated from well students and staff until the sick child can be sent home. The sick child will be supervised by an adult wearing appropriate PPE. We must sometimes ask for a note from your physician to return to the Center.

Children must wait to return to the Center for 24 hours after they have been sent home for illness assuming they are free of symptoms by then or a physician indicates they may return. See the following guidelines for "Discontinuing at home isolations" related to COVID-19.

Dealing with Suspected COVID-19 Cases

If a child or household member is suspected of having COVID-19, the child may not return to the center until test results are received. If they are negative, the child may return as soon as the results are known. If the child or household member tests positive, follow the instructions below.

Dealing with Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Cases and Exposure to COVID-19

The following pertains to all child care staff, families, and children at the Children's Learning Center.

For confirmed positive COVID 19-cases:

- Follow the "Discontinuing at home isolation" guidance below for timelines on returning to the child care setting.
- The facility will close for a period of 48 hours following the confirmed positive COVID-19 case of child or staff member in attendance, so that the facility can be cleaned and disinfected properly.
- The director or a designee 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 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.

- The facility must 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). The facility must also report positive COVID-19 cases to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS).

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 total period of 15 minutes or more — so shorter, but repeated contacts that add up to 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.

The CDC advises anyone who has been in close contact with a COVID-19 patient to quarantine for 14 days. "Close contacts" of positive cases will be offered the option to test on Day 5 of their quarantine, with release on Day 7 if test results are negative. This testing is available at no cost in College Health Services both to employees and students who are identified as "close contacts" of an infected individual.

Individuals identified as "close contacts" who opt not to test will be required to adhere to a 14-day quarantine timeline. This change effectively eliminates the use of a 10-day quarantine, with the exception of quarantines related to travel. The College will no longer require individuals traveling out of state to provide a negative test prior to their return, or to quarantine upon entry, absent a test. Individuals choosing to travel should continue to exercise caution and adhere to COVID-19 mitigation efforts including masking and social distancing. The College will still require testing or quarantine as previously implemented for all international travel.

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 two days after exposure (if known) or starting two days before test date (if exposure is unknown).

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

- Individuals will not be permitted in the Center. Staff and children are required, and we strongly recommended family members self-quarantine for a period of 10 days following contact, based on the CDC guidance.
- If a child becomes ill at the facility, the operator shall notify the child's parent as soon as possible.
- The director or designee 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 Department of Health 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.

Discontinuing at-home isolation:

There are different strategies for discontinuing home isolation. We will follow the recommendation of the PA Department of Health as well as the CDC and college guidelines to inform families of appropriate actions. Options include a symptom-based (i.e., time-since-illness-onset and time-since-recovery strategy) or test-based strategy. Child care providers should utilize the strategy that is best for their facility and that maintains the health and safety of children in care.

1. Symptom-Based Strategy

Individuals with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least three days (72 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 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

2. Time-Based Strategy – For persons who tested positive but have NOT had COVID-19 symptoms in home isolation:

Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.
- If they develop symptoms, then the symptom-based strategy will be used.**

Published: July 13, 2020
Updated: October 28, 2020
Updated: December 7, 2020
Updated: February 23, 2021
Updated: March 1, 2021