



This guidance is subject to change due to any number of factors, including but not limited to, clarification of language, compliance to change in state or federal mandates, or to best meet institutional, student, or employee needs.

ILLNESS POLICY

Overview

The Center follows 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.

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. We must sometimes ask for a note from your physician to return to the Center.

Illness

The health and care of all of our children is of the utmost importance to us. We will not be able to permit attendance for children who are displaying [COVID-19 symptoms](#) (including, but not limited to, fever, visibly ill and not participating, or having bowel movements multiple times within a one-hour period.) If Center staff are uncertain about whether the child's illness poses an increased risk to others, the child may not be permitted to attend until they are feeling better, or we may ask that a medical provider notifies the center that the child may attend.

Awaiting Test Results of Child or Close Contact

Children awaiting COVID-19 test results are **not permitted to attend**.

- If your child is awaiting test results or has received a positive COVID-19 test result, **do not** come to the Center. Notify the Center in the event of testing and with subsequent results.
- If a member of your household or close contact of your child is awaiting test results, or if your child has been identified as a close contact of an individual who tested positive, **do not** come to the Center. Contact the Center director or a teacher for further guidance.

Quarantine at Home Due to Close Contact with Someone at the Center Who Has COVID-19

- Close contact will include any individual who was in close contact, regardless of vaccination status (defined as someone who was within six (6) feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from two (2) days before illness onset, **unless both parties were masked**) with the infected person.
- Prior infection does not exempt an individual from quarantine requirements.
- Children who are identified as a close contact of another individual at the Center who is awaiting COVID-19 test results or has tested positive will be notified by the College as soon as the information is available. Please note: The College will only be able to share limited information related to quarantine needs and is not able to share medical information relating to children in the Center with anyone other than their identified guardians.
- The child would need to be picked up as soon as feasible, and would not be permitted to attend care for 10 days after the last exposure to the positive case.

Quarantine at Home Close Contact Outside of the Center

- Children who have been determined to be a close contact of a household member or contact outside of the Center who is awaiting COVID-19 test results or has tested positive, regardless of vaccination status should quarantine at home.
- Prior infection does not exempt an individual from quarantine requirements.

- Children who have been in close contact with a positive person will not be permitted to attend care for 10 days after the last exposure to the positive case.
- Families who have a child who has to quarantine should contact Human Resources at 570.327.4770 or humanresources@pct.edu, who will provide guidance to the quarantine period.

Isolation for Child Who Has Tested Positive for COVID-19

- Isolation separates people who are infected with the virus from people who are not infected. A 10-day isolation period is required, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic.
- Families who have a child who has tested positive should contact Human Resources at 570.327.4770 or humanresources@pct.edu, who will provide guidance as to the isolation period.
- Following the 10-day isolation period, prior to returning, medical documentation must be provided that the child is permitted to return.

Payment

- Days in which a child is required to quarantine as a result of close contact with someone while at the center who is awaiting test results or who has tested positive for COVID-19, you will not be responsible for payment of care.
- All other guidelines in the [Family Handbook](#) related to fees still apply.

Communication and Questions

We know that dealing with the day-to-day challenges of COVID-19 can be overwhelming, and we are here to support you. Please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at humanresources@pct.edu or Linda Reichert at lar22@pct.edu with any questions you may have.

Communication on individual circumstances related to quarantine or isolation dates will come directly from a representative from the Office of Human Resources. The primary form of communication will be through email, so families are asked to have an up to date email account on file at the Center. When providing information related to a child's return to the Center following a quarantine or isolation, the email will be sent to the family and will copy the center director, operations assistant, and the child's teachers.

OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

Hours of Operation

- Children/Parents/Guardians will arrive **between 7:30 and 9 a.m.**
- If it is feasible children will be picked up by **5 p.m.**, this is a very meaningful way to support our teachers, who are spending additional time after children leave for increased disinfecting of the room and toys. Care is still being provided until 5:30 p.m.

Child-Arrival Protocol

- Temperature taking for all children and families entering the Center is required prior to entry, you are strongly encouraged to use the temperature kiosk at the Center. Children should be fever free without the use of fever reducing medications.
- Temperatures will be taken mid-day for all children by a staff member,
- A staff member will make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness.
- Prior to coming each day, a family should ask themselves the following questions. If any are answered yes, the child is **not permitted to attend** and the family should contact the Center for further guidance.

- Is my child awaiting a COVID-19 test result?
- Has my child had any contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is awaiting test results?
- Has my child vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
- Does my child have any COVID-19 symptoms?
- Has my child taken any fever reducing medicines in the last 24 hours?

Face Masks

- While in the Children's Learning Center, indoor masking is required for all children over the age of two (2), families, staff, and visitors—regardless of vaccination status.
- Children will not wear a mask at meal, snack, or nap times.
- Masks are not required when in small groups outside. There may be events or activities that require masking even though they are held outdoors.
- If a child two (2) years old or older is unable to remove mask without assistance or wear it safely, the family should contact the Center director to discuss whether a medical exception can be made.
- Children should arrive with and bring an extra fresh mask each day. The Center is not responsible for providing masks.

What Children Should or Should Not Bring

Allowed (label all items with child's name):

- Two (2) masks or face shields—family is responsible for daily laundering
- Nap blanket—the Center will launder weekly
- One **small** stuffed animal that can be laundered weekly
- Two-three (2-3) changes of clothing-seasonal appropriate
- Appropriate clothing for outdoor play (especially sneakers for outdoor play)
- Extra socks
- Water bottle to remain at the Center (it will be cleaned)

Not Allowed:

- No food or toys
- Large over-sized blankets or sleeping bags
- Backpacks

Daily Activities

- The children will not be brushing teeth.
- During meals, children will be spread a distance of three to six (3-6) feet, to the extent feasible.
- Staff will serve children their food on plates. There will be no family style eating.
- In the preschool rooms, when a child is done playing with toys and materials, the items will be washed with soapy water and disinfected.
- In the toddler rooms, the toys and materials will be washed with soapy water and disinfected at the end of the day. Any toys that are mouthed will be removed immediately and not be available until after washing with soapy water and disinfecting.
- Children's cots will be spaced of three to six (3-6) feet apart. Children will be placed head to toe.

Published: January 10, 2022