



## Health Check and Illness Policy - COVID 19

Applies to staff, children and their household members, which states in part:

**ALL STAFF, FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND THEIR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS MUST CONDUCT A DAILY HEALTH CHECK BEFORE COMING TO THE CENTER.**

Should you or any household member have any of the following symptoms, we ask you to remain out that day and notify the center.

- Fever of 100.4 F or higher, now or in the preceding 72 hours
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Muscle Aches
- Difficulty Breathing
  
- Consistent with our COVID-19 Policy, the symptomatic individual will be required to remain out of the center for 14 days unless medical clearance is provided by a physician indicating that the presenting symptoms are associated with a known non-COVID-19 illness. The physician's note must not be from a family member.
  
- Exclusion from the center is sometimes necessary to reduce the transmission of illness. For your child's comfort, and to reduce the risk of transmission, we ask that children be picked up within 1.0 hour of notification. Until then, your child will be kept comfortable and will continue to be observed for symptoms.

### **Summary of Enhanced Protocols-Centers**

We are continually updating our processes and protocols in accordance with the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance and the guidance from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning. We are encouraging our centers to maintain small group sizes and practice social distancing to the best of our ability, given the ever-changing circumstances and variation in guidance across state.

### **Updated Child Care Policy**

Families may not use Serenity for child care if any member of the household has (or has been in close contact with anyone who has:

(a) A suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 (for example – close contact at school, work, religious service, social gathering); or

(b) Traveled:

- internationally; or
- domestically from any area which is the subject of travel restrictions under applicable state and local guidance.

14 days after the last potential exposure, the child may return for care **provided these three things have happened:**

(a) At least 10 days have passed since any household member first experienced symptoms

(b) Symptoms have improved for any household member that experienced symptoms (for example, cough or shortness of breath has improved).

(c) The child, and/or family member has been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

**Please note, depending on the circumstances we may require you to obtain medical clearance before a child is permitted to return.**

## **HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

Include individuals who may not live in the household but may be staying there or are otherwise present in the household on a regular basis and includes anyone with pick up or drop off privileges at the center.

## **CLOSE CONTACT**

Is defined by the CDC as being within approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time and can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case, or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on). Considerations when assessing close contact include the duration of exposure and the clinical symptoms of the person with COVID-19.

## **Illness Policy- COVID 19**

Suspension of a care is sometimes necessary to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. To reduce the risk of infection, if your child, or anyone else present in the household becomes ill, you must make alternate arrangements for care of your child(ren).

## **How to Protect Yourself/Your Household**

Please see the CDC guidelines for current guidance on best practices for protecting yourself and your household during this pandemic: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

### **Cloth Face Covering:**

We recommend that all caregivers and families be familiar with the CDC's recommendations around cloth face coverings available [<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>]. The CDC recommends individuals wearing cloth face coverings to protect people around the wearer of the cloth face mask, in the event the wearer is infected but not symptomatic, to reduce the spread of COVID-19. **Note:** This guidance does not apply to children 2 or under. Serenity Early Learning Center requires that all children over 2 years old wear a face mask everyday while in care. If a child is not dropped off with a face mask, they will **NOT** be permitted to enter the building. Cloth face coverings are **NOT** a substitute for social distancing, hand washing or other everyday preventative actions.

### **Pick up and Drop off procedures**

To reduce the risk of infection, families will **NOT** be permitted in the building for **ANY** reason. There will be curbside pick-up and drop off for children entering and leaving the center. Parents must call the center, and a staff member will escort children in and out of the building.

### **Health and Hygiene Practices**

Our regular health and hygiene practices provide some of the best defenses against the spread of most contagious illnesses. In addition to regular and thorough cleaning of classrooms, surfaces and toys, we teach children good hand-washing practices and ensure that children and staff take important precautions against the spread of germs.

### **You can work with your children to practice some of these same steps at home:**

- Wash hands often with soap and water
- Sneeze or cough into your elbow; or cover mouth and nose with a tissue before sneezing or coughing, then immediately discard the tissue.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are ill
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, especially if someone is sick