Hello WECEC families. Can I just say that it has been a fantastic first week back! Boy, did we miss everyone! Thank you for making our new drop off and pick up procedures go so smoothly on our first day back. If you should happen to get a busy signal when you call (especially at popular drop off and pick up times) please call back. We do our very best to make drop off time as quick and seamless as possible. I wanted to share the most current information (in orange) regarding health policies for children and staff.

**Exclusions/Inclusions for Children and Staff**

ο Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or awaiting test-results should self-isolate until: 1. It’s been 3 full days of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication,

and
2. Other symptoms have improved, and
3. At least **10** days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

• The following children and staff will be **excluded** from care:

o Sick for any reason
o Showing symptoms (outlined below) of COVID-19
o Have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
o A cough, fever, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking

with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell of Fever (temperature higher than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit)
o Severe sore throat that lasts more than 48 hours, especially with a fever
o A significant rash, particularly when other symptoms are present
o Large amounts of discolored nasal discharge
o Severe ear pain
o Uncontrolled cough
o Diarrhea
o Severe headache, especially with a fever

• Healthy children and staff with the following symptoms/conditions **may attend programming**:

o Allergy symptoms (with no fever) that cause coughing and *clear runny nose* may stay if they have medically diagnosed allergies and follow medical treatment plans.

o Well-controlled, mild asthma

I know this is all overwhelming…we are living in such unprecedented times. As I sit here getting this letter ready, I paused to take a look out the window and I saw children running, playing, smiling, and heard laughter from children and teachers alike. Thank you for entrusting us with your children. We are taking the recommendations from the VT DOH very seriously and are following the new guidelines to give everyone a chance at uninterrupted care. We understand the need for parents to have a place to send their children while they transition back to work. We do not want to exclude children from care; that is not our wish. I thank everyone in advance for their commitment to following the new regulations and keeping their children home if they are sick.

I also wanted to pass this along as a resource to families. Please share freely!

**Support Food Access At Home**

Many of the families you serve may be newly-eligible for either WIC or 3SquaresVT- two programs available to help families stay nourished and stretch their food budgets!

For more information about WIC, dial 2-1-1 or text ​**VTWIC**​ to 855-11.
For more information about 3SquaresVT, dial 2-1-1 or text ​**VFBSNAP**​ to 855-11.

If you have any questions about how to operate the federal child nutrition programs, please reach out to the ​child nutrition team at the Vermont Agency of Education​.

For more information on how Hunger Free Vermont works to support food access in early care and education centers, contact Keely Agan at ​kagan@hungerfreevt.org​ or 802-448-4396

Be Well,

Makenzie Witzgall

(802) 674-9654