

COVID-19 Policies

April 23rd, 2021

Pre-screening of Staff and Children:

1. All individuals who need to enter the J will answer a screening questionnaire and have their temperature checked daily before entering. The screening questionnaire will be completed online prior to arrival, and temperatures will be taken by parents before leaving home. Staff will recheck children's temperatures when arriving in the classroom. Any child who displays fever and/or other COVID-19 related symptoms of illness will not be accepted into school that day. These symptoms include:
 - a. Fever (100.4 with a temporal thermometer)
 - b. New or uncontrolled cough.
 - c. Shortness of breath
 - d. Sore throat
 - e. Diarrhea and/or vomiting.
 - f. Fatigue
 - g. Other key symptoms, such as headache, loss of senses of smell/taste, muscle/body ache, and chills are harder to detect in non-verbal and newly-verbal children.

If you keep your child home for **any reason** on a scheduled day please contact the ECC office and inform us as to the reason for absence. Please remember that all other parts of our existing health policy remain in effect.

2. Notification of quarantine or isolation:

If a member of your family is quarantined or tests positive for COVID-19 notify us immediately via email at ecc@jccannabor.org.
3. Children Becoming Ill in School:

If a child begins to display symptoms of illness (as listed above), they will be removed from the classroom. We have a designated and staffed separate room for children identified with any signs of illness. Parents are required to pick up ill children immediately. We will call emergency contacts if your ill child is not picked up within 30 minutes.
4. Return to Care:

Children with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (as listed above) may return when:

 - a. Fever-free for 24 hours without a fever reducer AND
 - b. Other symptoms have improved AND

- c. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared OR documentation of a negative PCR test while symptomatic. (please consult with your physician regarding alternative pathogens if a child tests negative but remains symptomatic)
 - d. Children who have been exposed to COVID-19 may return to care upon completion of mandated quarantine.
 - e. Children who have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to care upon completion mandated isolation.
5. Outside Activities:
Some older children participate in lessons outside of school These activities must be cleared with the ECC directors. A description from the vendor of the distancing measures they are taking will facilitate quick clearance of activities.
6. Multiple Programs:
Children enrolled in the ECC **may not** be enrolled in another early childhood program. Exceptions may be made for special needs resources not available in our program.
7. Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures:
Parents may NOT enter the building (exceptions made for folks who are nursing). We are implementing a drop-off and pick-up process at all times at the front entrance of the J to limit the number of people entering the building. It is critical that you drop off and pick up within the designated window as delay would likely result in mixing of groups. If it is necessary for you to drop off or pick up at a different time, you must call in advance and we will do our best to accommodate you by meeting you outside to pick up or drop off your child. Once again, parents may NOT enter the building after our soft reopen.
8. Staggered Drop Off and Pick Up Times:
Please be patient with us as we now need to pick up and/or bring you your child(ren) one vehicle/family at a time. We require that all parents (or guardians that are dropping off and/or picking up your child) wear a face covering during the drop off and pick up process. Because parents may not enter our building, we have designated drop off and pick up times for each classroom. There are three possible pickup and two drop off windows, which must be chosen via webform and confirmed by the ECC office. Detailed dropoff and pickup procedures will be emailed to you, and are tweaked often.
- a. Drop-off: 8:00am-8:15am and 8:30-8:45am
 - b. Pickup: 3:30-3:45pm, 4:45pm-5:00pm, and 5:15pm-5:30pm.

9. If you are unable to come at one of these designated times due to an emergency, please contact the office to arrange for a staff member to meet you outside. We will try our best to accommodate this request, but please note that in some cases, if you are unable to come at the designated time, you may not be able to bring your child that day. **Infant carriers, car seats, or strollers are no longer allowed in the facility.**

10. At pickup and dropoff please **do not hold the door** for other people's children, and please keep the entrance clear while waiting for your child.

11. Post-gathering quarantine:

Children whose families attend an indoor gathering that has high probability of close contact with other attendees and includes people outside of your family's day-to-day contacts, must quarantine for 14 days before returning to care.

a. Day to day contacts include:

- i. your household (including those who regularly are in your home),
- ii. your children's classmates,
- iii. your direct work contacts
- iv. a second household that "pods" consistently with yours.

Permissible gatherings include 10 or fewer people. Please contact us if you would like to talk through a strategy for your family.

12. Support of Mask wearing:

Developing a culture of mask-wearing for younger children is a process. Our families are part of that process. Giving your children the experience of wearing masks at home or when you go out is critical for developing a more robust mask-wearing culture in our classrooms. We have no expectation that two-year-olds are going to be particularly good at this for quite some time. Beginning the process is critical to later mask-wearing.

13. Children with family members in quarantine:

Children in our program who have family members in quarantine must remain home until their family member's quarantine is released.

14. Babysitting by Staff:

To reduce risk of transmission and widespread quarantines babysitting is permitted under the following circumstances:

- a. ECC staff may babysit for children who are currently enrolled in their classrooms. Teachers who have been vaccinated may babysit children who are not in their class.

- b. ECC staff may babysit for siblings if one of them is currently enrolled in their classrooms.
- c. ECC staff may not babysit children in households under quarantine or isolation.
- d. Children and their families must be healthy - defined as able to pass our clearance questionnaire - for staff to babysit in that household.

15. Hand washing:

Staff and children will be required to sanitize or wash hands first thing in the morning when they arrive in the building. In addition, children will wash their hands many times throughout the day, including: when entering classrooms, returning from the playground, before and after eating, and using the bathroom. Hand-washing has been and will continue to be a regular routine practice throughout our day.

16. Protective equipment:

- a. Eye protection - Goggles and shields will also be available for use in infant rooms and other rooms on a case-by-case basis.
- b. Gloves - We will continue to use nonporous gloves as part of standard blood borne pathogen and food safety protocols when in any contact with bodily fluids, serving food, and diaper changing.
- c. Protective Clothing - Infant and toddler teachers will wear protective shirts over their clothes when holding, feeding and changing babies. Protective shirts will be available to all teachers for use as needed.
- d. Masks - see below.

17. Group Consistency:

Recommendations from the state and the CDC call for children to be in a consistent group with a consistent set of teachers, doing everything possible to prevent unnecessary interactions; teachers will be assigned a single cohort of children. For our classrooms with higher group sizes, we will split them to create smaller groups. We will do our best to ensure that your child will remain with at least one teacher from this school year, however, teachers may also have to be split to accommodate classes as needed. We will reach out to you regarding these potential changes.

18. Lunches:

A dairy or parve lunch should be sent from home daily with your child in a disposable paper lunch bag or large Ziplock bag. NO lunch boxes or containers that need to be returned home please. Hot Lunch service is available at an additional cost.

19. Water - Cups, Water Fountains:

For health and safety, the water fountains in the preschool will be closed and not available for use. Please make sure your child has a water bottle or sippy cup labeled with his or her name that can stay at school. Water bottles will remain at school and will be washed and sanitized daily. We will not be allowing water bottles to travel back and forth between home and school.

20. Bedding:

Bedding must be limited to a small blanket for children napping on cots. Bedding will be stored individually for all children who sleep on cots/mats and washed weekly.

21. Large/Whole School Gatherings:

The same high-quality school day will continue for your children. However, there will be NO multi-class or whole school gatherings. Special activities WILL CONTINUE to take place, but instead they will be held either in your child's classroom or via center-wide Zoom! Outside time will continue as well, however we will limit the playground to one class at a time.

22. Classroom/Facility Cleaning & Disinfecting:

The rooms have been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized and we will continue to maintain the new cleaning procedures during the day and each night. The J is equipped with an electrostatic sprayer which is used throughout the preschool and building every evening. The sprayer provides complete disinfectant coverage on all hard and soft surfaces. The disinfectant used is Premier Facility Disinfectant Cleaner, a locally produced product and EPA registered broad-spectrum disinfectant. It has a quick killing virucide with a 99.9% effectiveness rate. It is safe to use in schools. Information about this product may be found here:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/5fb9ea41801/60fd958b-865b-471f-92b5-93526e55250b.pdf>

23. Birthday Treats:

Birthday treats no longer need to be individually wrapped - just in easy individual servings that can be passed out with a gloved hand. Teachers will distribute servings.

24. Sensory Tables:

The sensory tables have returned to the Kangaroo and Giraffe rooms as these children can reliably remain masked while using the materials in the tables in a collaborative fashion. Children wash hands before and after using the tables, and the number of children using the table at one time is limited to four.

25. Snack & teacher prep:

Teachers will wear gloves and masks when preparing snacks.

26. Vaccinated Family:

Since so many of our children's grandparents are or soon will be vaccinated, we will be working with parents on relaxing the quarantine requirement for family visits with vaccinated older relatives. This will be done on a case-by-case basis, as there is no "one size fits all" solution.

27. Pending COVID Tests:

Children with **pending COVID tests may not return** to care until we receive test results from you. (pre-travel or pre-procedure testing? give us a heads up as the test would not have been for return to care.)

28. In the event of a COVID-19 case:

If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case in the center, we will immediately contact the Washtenaw County Health Department for guidance regarding exclusion and closure. If a case is identified in a classroom, the classroom will be closed, cleaned, and everyone in the room will be quarantined for 14 days. Further steps would be as directed by the health department. If you are uncomfortable with sending your child to school with these precautions in place, please do not return to school at this time. These precautions are in place to provide every effort to keep every child and family safe; however, this does not provide any guarantee of any kind.

MASKS

a. In common spaces (anywhere indoors that is not your classroom or office):

- i. Staff will wear masks
- ii. 2-year-olds will be encouraged to wear masks
- iii. Children 3 and above will wear masks.
- iv. Exceptions made for eating, sleeping, hydration.

b. In classroom spaces:

- i. Staff will wear masks
- ii. Children 2-4 will be encouraged to wear masks.
- iii. School-age children will wear masks.
- iv. Exceptions made for eating, sleeping, and hydration.

c. Outside:

- i. Staff will wear masks unless **CONSISTENTLY** socially distanced from others. This means consistently 6+ feet without the need to take off and put on a mask frequently.

- ii. Children 2-5 will be encouraged to wear masks when not socially distanced from each other.
- iii. School-age children will wear masks when not socially distanced from each other.
- iv. Exceptions made for eating, hydration, and vigorous activities.
- d. Two year olds: In addition to wearing masks in common spaces, we must make a good faith effort to wear masks in the classroom. This will be a process, starting with putting a few mask-wearing times into the daily routine, and gradually increasing them.
- e. Preschoolers: 5-yr-olds are now required to wear masks outside when not socially distanced. Since it would be confusing to require just the five year olds in the Kanga and Giraffe rooms, we'll have all the preschoolers wear masks outside.

Masks are not to be used for children under the age of two years.

Masking Procedures

- 29. Preschool and school-age children will arrive at drop-off wearing a mask. 2-year olds should wear masks at drop-off as well.
- 30. Each preschool and school-age child will bring an extra mask to school/camp in case the primary mask is soiled. For ECC children this means bringing a small bag to school to transport extra masks back and forth from home to school. We have a SMALL quantity of child-size disposable masks in case of emergency that we will charge for if needed.
- 31. Preschool and school-age children will wear one of their masks during pickup until leaving JCC custody. 2-year-olds will also wear them at pickup.
- 32. Masks sent to school and camp daily should be clean. Parents should either wash masks daily or have sufficient quantities on hand to supply clean masks each day.
- 33. Anecdotal evidence from our colleagues around the country suggests that children are more “mask-compliant” when told by their parents that this is something important. Social Stories can be VERY helpful in teaching children about mask wearing. Here are some good ones:
 - a. <https://www.autism.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/face-mask-social-story.pdf>
 - b. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R1ISbfZ8TRchbHCiK_4svK7WLH62ISIH/view?blm_aid=32695
 - c. https://www.ucucedd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/I-Can-Wear-a-Mask-Social-Story_FINAL.pdf

34. We expect to do a LOT of coaching on how to put on and take off masks, and caring for our masks. You can help us by practicing at home!
35. We will continue to work with our health consultant and the health department to determine how we should be encouraging mask wearing in situations where it is not required. For now, the teachers will be doing a LOT of commenting on what we notice about children's masks. As we develop more encouragement strategies we will share them.
36. A number of parents have posted about good places to source masks for children in our JCC ECC Coronavirus Support Group on Facebook. Here's the link if you're not a member of it already! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2831603290251820/>

Phase	Environment	Staff	Children Ages 2-3	Children Ages 4-11	Children Ages 12 and up	Parents and visitors
Phases 1-4	Classrooms, Small Groups, and Homes	Required	Should be encouraged*	Should be encouraged*	Required	Required
	Common spaces	Required	Should be encouraged*	Required	Required	Required
	Outside with social distancing	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required
	Transportation	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Phase 5	All environments	Providers are strongly encouraged to continue wearing cloth face coverings as described in phases 1 through 4.				

* Although cloth face coverings are not required in these settings, they should be encouraged if tolerated.

Click [here](#) for guidance from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (these guidelines were developed by a working group including the Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services

Click [here](#) for COVID-19 resources from the CDC

Click [here](#) for COVID-19 resources from the American Academy of Pediatrics