

PANDEMIC POLICY CHANGES DUE TO COVID – 2/28/2022

CPDC is accepting children with the assurance that families and staff will work together to help us all stay safe and open.

NORMAL OPERATIONS - When minimal spread is in the community:

- Medium or Low Level as deemed here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>
- 1. **AT ALL TIMES: DON'T SEND SICK OR EXPOSED KIDS TO SCHOOL.** No symptoms can be present in the household for 24 hours before any child attends CPDC, including using fever reducing medications. **IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT!**
- 2. **CPDC reserves the right to return to 48 hours out if any viral tummy bugs or seasonal flu is spreading.**
- 3. CPDC will continue to monitor and check temperatures throughout the day.
- 4. Masks are optional.
- 5. We will resume all other normal operations while maintaining the safest and most normal experience possible.

POSITIVE CASE POLICY

1. The day of exposure or positive test counts as day zero.
2. CPDC preschool students who are exposed or positive must be out for 7 days from their exposure or positive test. They can return on day 8 if no symptoms were present within the household in the 48 hours before the child returns.
3. If there is a positive case within a classroom within a 48-hour period, the entire class and unvaccinated staff is now exposed.
4. If the household is on quarantine and sickness (and positive tests) continue to spread within the household, the quarantine extends an additional 5 days after each additional positive test or symptoms develop. The household should wait send their child back a minimum of 48 hours after the household symptoms end.
5. Adult workers and student staff can use the current CDC 5+5 policy. They should remain out 5 days from day zero and test on day 5 with the MUW Health Center. They may return and use appropriate N95 (CPDC provided) masks for the next 5 days if the test on day 5 is negative. Positive and or exposed staff must keep their masks on at all times indoors or outdoors within 6 feet of others and must remove themselves from the center to eat/drink or have masking breaks. Because there is no way for children to mask continuously during the course of their day, childcare can not abide by the 5+5 for children. Adults can return if 5 days from the positive test or exposure AND 48 hours have passed from the last symptom.
6. If the exposed child or staff is up to date on vaccinations or has had Covid-19 within 90 days and have NO SYMPTOMS, they will be permitted to return without additional quarantine. Please make sure to notify the CPDC of all positive test dates of children/staff (even over breaks) so we can keep records. This will ensure we have all positive dates recorded to avoid quarantines within the period.
7. **We will encourage (but not require) testing on day 5 from exposure.** It is up to the parent or family to decide to test. CPDC does not require any test to return for children. If you choose to test, current recommendations are day 5-7 after exposure OR when symptoms develop. Please talk to your pediatrician.
8. Children can test at the MUW Health Center on the MUW campus if needed.
9. CPDC has rapid test for home use with families if needed or wanted.

HIGH COMMUNITY SPREAD

- Community HIGH active spread is determined based on <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>
 - **MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY: DON'T SEND SICK OR EXPOSED KIDS TO SCHOOL.**
 - No symptoms can be present in the household for 48 hours before any child attends CPDC, including using fever reducing medications. **IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT!**
- 10. If your child is sick without a positive test or from another illness, stay out a minimum of 48 hours after the last household symptoms end during this period of spread.
- 11. All outside events, student classroom observations, and specials are canceled.
- 12. Intervention services are encouraged to continue as pull-out services instead of in the classroom.
- 13. CPDC will keep a list of covid positives, exposures, and vaccinations and report all to the MUW Health Center and our licensure agent.
- 14. CPDC will do their diligence NOT to combine during drop off, pick up, or playground play in an effort to cut down on chances of exposure.

AT ALL TIMES:

1. The primary parent is responsible for notifying every pick-up person of the policies and procedures and ensuring they comply with all policies.
2. Morning drop-off is only permitted between 7:30-8:30 AM unless proof of necessary appointments.
3. Parents will be responsible for temperature checks, answering sickness screening questions, handwashing, and signing in on arrival using paper and Brightwheel at the CPDC sign in station.
4. Parents will be allowed to come into the building for afternoon pickup. Parents should message through the app Brightwheel to notify staff of pickup time before entering the building to cut down on time. Additionally, parents should arrange conferences and meeting times with staff through Brightwheel so we can make sure all classes have coverage for any meetings. Parents are to be efficient and in and out of the building quickly. Drop off and pickup is NOT the time to meet with your teacher.
5. CPDC will continue to monitor and check temperatures throughout the day. Any child who has a fever of 100.0 degrees or higher will not be allowed inside and must remain outside of school until the child is fever free for 48 hours during times of moderate, substantial, or high spread. During more normal times, this is 100.4 and 24 hours. This also applies to times where we see high spread of other viral sickness, such as flu or bugs.
6. **Any families who are at high risk for illness should speak with their health care provider about masking and weigh their risk of attending. CPDC will support and respect any staff or family who would like to wear face coverings.**

7. Parents are required to keep their children home if sick and to inform the center if anyone in their immediate household tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19 or **any other transmittable illness. The family should keep their child out until CPDC communicates the return date.**
8. In the event there is a reported positive COVID-19 case in a center classroom, the center (or partial center/classrooms) will be immediately closed and CPDC will work with local health officials to implement appropriate cleaning and disinfectant protocols. Adults will be messaged to immediately pick up their children.
9. In the event of a positive COVID-19 case at the center, the name of the child, family or staff will remain confidential to other CPDC families and staff.
10. If a classroom of friends and staff gets exposed, CPDC will immediately close the room. Once we reevaluate, if we have any children who still need care, we will do our best to reopen the room to the unexposed, vaccinated, and previously positive (within 90 days) group of friends. This is dependent completely on having other available qualified staff to open.
11. Three or more direct cases within the center can be deemed an outbreak as per the investigation guidelines with licensure.
12. In the event MUW or CPDC closes to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 for longer than a two consecutive week period, parents are not required to pay tuition. If CPDC does close longer than two consecutive weeks payment plans will complete for the current month of service and payments will stop. No refunds will be issued. However, if CPDC as a center is open, parents are required to pay tuition or risk forfeiture of their child's spot-on roster.
13. If families are uncomfortable with coming in the building or potentially being around unvaccinated and unmasked populations, please message us in Brightwheel and we will bring your child to your car outside of the center.
14. CPDC will keep a list of covid positives, exposures, and vaccinations and report all to the MUW Health Center and our licensure agent as mandatory.
15. CPDC will update classes and families based on exposures within the center as information comes available, same as we are required for all transmittable illnesses. Families can use this information to determine when to choose to keep their own children out to risk exposure in times of spread.

OTHER POLICIES PER LICENSURE --- IMPORTANT TO ALL

- **IMPORTANT: Families are REQUIRED by licensure to send us your information on household positives and exposures of children! For us, this includes flu or ANY viral illness - even stomach bugs. We have to follow licensure and self-report all cases and quarantines. If we have 3 connected positive cases in a classroom it triggers an investigation from the Department of Health. It could count as an outbreak and we are shut down by licensure for 14+ days – which we are trying to avoid.**

For pandemics or national emergencies CPDC will use due diligence to follow state, local, and federal recommendations. CPDC monitors recommendations specifically from the University/IHL, CDC, MS Department of Health and Human Services (for certificates/emergency care), and MS Department of Health/licensure). Parents must assume some of the risk of exposure for allowing children in the care of CPDC during any outbreak or period of disease or sickness. There are still so many unknowns about the long-term effects of the virus. Every family must do their due diligence to decide what is best for their family.

- **Quarantine and isolation periods for childcare is different from the general population as it is a close-contact group environment without a vaccination available.**
- Mississippi Childcare licensure is asking that we follow these recommendations: https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/15289.pdf
- CDC Guidelines for Childcare: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance.html>
- University guidelines: <https://www.muw.edu/disease>
- **Free at-home tests:** <https://www.covidtests.gov/>
- **Find a COVID-19 Vaccine:** Search vaccines.gov, text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you in the U.S.

Plans, policies, and levels of precautions will fluctuate and change based on the level of transmission in the community and our procedures and recommendations as outlined from MUW, local and state offices, the community, CDC, licensure, and MSDH and MSDHS. Because our early childhood community (specifically birth-5) is yet to be vaccinated and is considered group care, we will follow more stringent policies and procedures that will not look like the P12 school world. Please be patient as we navigate the information.

EVERYTHING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE: The regulations, rules, and guidance change with every variant as more is learned each time. Please be patient as we navigate the information.