

CYC 2022-2023: Family Handbook Addendum regarding COVID-19 Protocols

The Center for Young Children is committed to offering in-person learning and quality care and education for our students and families. We are still “living with” COVID-19 in our communities as it evolves over time, and as such, all guidance regarding prevention efforts in schools and early education programs will also evolve to reflect the local conditions and degree of risk.

The following addendum offers information regarding any programmatic adjustments that have been made due to continued prevention and protective measures.

CYC Hours of Operation

- **CYC Core Day hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any families who purchased, in advance, a space for their child in our Afternoon Gathering program are able to stay until 5:30 pm.**
- Families should **make every effort** to drop off children at CYC between **8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.**, and to pick up children between **3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.** (**5:30** for Afternoon Gathering students only).
- **Blue Room** families should have their **Kindergarten student** to school between **8:30-9:00 am.**

THE KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE BEGINS AT 9:00 AM SHARP

Late fees will be applied to any family picking up their child past 4:30 (5:30 for AG). See the top of page 15 in the Family Handbook for those fees.

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

Families will be able to come into the building to drop off their child(ren). (For returning families, we will **not** be using the colored paddles).

Drop off in the morning will occur **at the classroom doors**. A teacher will greet you at the door and assist with transitioning into the classroom. Families should bring as few people as possible to drop off and pick up their child(ren) to lessen the amount of people inside the building.

DROP OFFS AND PICK UPS SHOULD REMAIN BRIEF

Vaccinations

For COVID-19, vaccination is the leading public health strategy to prevent severe disease. Vaccines provide individual-level protection, and having high vaccination coverage helps to reduce the burden of COVID-19 exposures and illness on schools and early education programs. Maryland’s Department of Health and the Department of Education **strongly recommend** that all eligible Marylanders ages 6 months and older receive all recommended doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, including boosters.

Masks

Per the University of Maryland's recently released guidance regarding masks on campus (inside and outside of classrooms), and following the guidance of the CDC and MSDE on the topic of mask use, the **CYC's policy on masks is that wearing a mask will not be required, but it will be optional (or voluntary) for adults and children.**

The University and MSDE recommend that we consistently monitor the COVID-19 community levels, and if they elevate to a "high" status, our indoor masking policy will resume. In addition, at times of an outbreak or increased transmission within the CYC, the use of masks may be recommended based on the guidance offered by our local health department.

Please send to school 2-3 child-sized, well-fitting masks for students to keep in their cubbies and "at the ready" if we do need to quickly transition back to mask wearing. They can be stored in a labeled Ziploc bag.

Ventilation

The CYC classrooms all have a back door that opens up to the outside. These doors can be propped open to allow for fresh air to flow throughout the space. Also, the large windows in each classroom can also be left open, and the small windows in the children's bathrooms.

The Parent-Teacher Partnership of the CYC invested in large air filtration units for each classroom, the Great Room, and the front office area.

We also have a campus contact at the Department of Environmental Safety (Maureen Kotlas) who is always available to consult with us and check the air quality of the CYC building.

Hand Hygiene

At the CYC, students are taught (and repeatedly practice) proper hand washing procedures. They wash their hands as soon as they enter the classroom in the morning, after using the bathroom, and at other appropriate times throughout the school day (before and after meals, after playing outside, before and after water play or using play dough and other art materials (glue, paint), before and after touching class pets, etc.

Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfection

The CYC building is cleaned every morning by members of the University's FM Housekeeping department. They sanitize all high-touch surfaces, vacuum carpets, wash floors, and perform overall cleaning in all of the classrooms and other school spaces.

Classroom cleaning and sanitizing procedures are mandated by our state licensing office and those procedures have been heightened during COVID-19. All teachers and student aides are responsible for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and laundering classroom activity tables, toys, and other materials to help prevent the spread of colds, flu and viruses.

Illness of a child - Staying Home when Sick

COVID-19 is still with us, and the CYC will continue to follow guidance and protocols in order to maintain safety for all children.

We are counting on CYC families to keep children who are ill at home.

Please review our Health Policies in the Family Handbook (pp 29-30). **We ask that families notify the CYC when a child has a reportable infectious disease, including a positive test for COVID-19** (a list of such illnesses can be found on page 29 of the Family Handbook). Families can use this link to complete a Google form indicating the reason for absence:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18sX_NGugTGDpWu7Q5lOwTOX9x8o4pMa5f99WTMNljR4/edit?ts=6303a61d

As a state licensed early education program, we must follow all existing procedures for reporting certain diseases (COMAR 10.06.01) including COVID-19 to our local health department.

Student With	Guidance for Management
COVID -19 Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The student should not attend school• COVID-19 testing is highly recommended• If test is negative, student may return to school when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medication
Positive test for COVID -19, regardless of symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The student must stay home from school for 5 days from the onset of symptoms OR from the date of the positive test result if no symptoms are present (asymptomatic).• After day 5, the student may return to school if symptoms have improved and no fever for at least 24 hours without medication• Upon return to school, the student must wear a mask for 5 additional days (except when eating, drinking, sleeping or outside)• If unable to wear a mask, the student may return if they have a negative test result at day 5 or later; otherwise, they should remain at home for days 6-10
Close contact with someone with known or suspected COVID-19 but no symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The student can continue to attend school regardless of vaccination status• Those who can mask should do so for 10 days from the last day of exposure• A test at 3-5 days after exposure is highly recommended, especially for those who cannot mask

In the case that your child gets sick while at CYC, it is more important than ever that **someone is available to pick them up in a timely manner**. While we do have enhanced safety protocols in place for a child who gets sick while at CYC, all families should have someone who can get to CYC within 30 minutes to pick up a sick child. This is for the protection not only of that child, but also the other children and teachers at school.

**Guidance from the Maryland State Department of Health and Maryland State Department of Education can be found at: <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/> and https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/01.06.2022_memo_school_childcare_guidance.pdf

Snacks and Lunches

CYC will provide a morning and afternoon snack. For lunch, children may bring a reusable lunchbox. CYC can refrigerate items that need to be kept cold, and we will provide milk for lunch. We are not able to heat up lunches.

Nap bedding

Clean nap bedding should be sent to school each Monday. On Fridays, nap bedding will be sent back home and should be laundered over the weekend. If you transport your child's nap bedding to school in a bag from home on Mondays, that bag will be stored in your child's cubby throughout the week and bedding will return to you in that same bag on Fridays. We will store each child's bedding in a large Ziploc plastic bag that we can seal completely closed and keep on the child's cot during the week. Please make sure that all bedding is child-sized; our storage space between cots is limited.