

Our Children's Center
Covid-19 Safety Plan
March 2022 Update

Overview

The purpose of this plan is to ensure the safety of all students, staff and families of OCC. With the spread of Covid-19, OCC must remain vigilant in mitigating the outbreak with the objective of protecting the health of everyone concerned.

The administration is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this plan and set a good example by following the plan at all times. This involves practicing good hygiene and schoolwide safety and prevention practices. The administration will ask for and monitor the same behavior from all employees. If your family has any specific COVID-related concerns (e.g., a vulnerable unvaccinated household member), please contact the Safety Officer to discuss.

This plan is based on the information available from the CDC and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and may be changed and amended based on further information.

A copy of this plan will be provided to staff and families. Staff will be trained in following these guidelines. Staff will also explain and model safety and hygiene procedures to students in an age appropriate manner.

Rebekah Carswell has been designated as OCC's Primary Covid-19 Safety Officer. She is responsible for all documentation. If you have any questions regarding Covid-19, please reach out to Rebekah at occheadofschool@gmail.com or call the office at 814-237-1585.

This update reflects change in policy with regards to staff vaccinations and clearly delineates quarantine and isolation rules

Vaccinations

OCC strongly encourages all parents, and any other adults who live with our students to get vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19, if recommended by their healthcare providers. We encourage the same for children who qualify. We hope that vaccines for younger children will be found safe and approved in the coming year as well. At that time we strongly encourage all children to be vaccinated, if recommended by their healthcare providers.

Staff members were required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to CDC guidance, with a deadline of 12/31/2021. Any incoming staff members are also required to be fully vaccinated. We strongly encourage staff members to get booster shots against COVID-19 as well.

This plan may be modified after vaccines are available to different age groups, further developments in vaccines, or due to other changes in the pandemic.

Signage and Information

Information regarding this plan and resources will be disseminated to all families and employees. Handwashing procedural illustrations are found in each classroom and in all restrooms. Informational links are included at the end of this plan.

Family Responsibilities

Parents must keep children at home if they have a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, or any of the following symptoms that cannot be connected to another health problem or an activity such as physical exercise.

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea

- Runny nose/congestion

No child may return to the facility until 72 hours fever free or 24 hours fever free with a negative COVID test and free of any symptoms defined above, without medication. Families are asked to review and follow OCC quarantine and isolation procedures below and also [Guidance Documents | CDC](#).

Families are strongly encouraged to report any known exposures of their OCC students to Covid-19 positive individuals to the Covid-19 Safety officer. Quarantine and isolation procedures follow.

If a child becomes ill while at school, s/he will be appropriately isolated with the Safety Officer in the Fireside Room until they can be picked up. Parents are to use the Robin Alley entrance to pick up a sick child. Masks are to be worn by any parent picking up a sick child. Timely pickup of sick children is required, preferably within 30 minutes of notification.

Temperature and health screenings will happen daily for staff and children. Parents will be responsible for completing their children's daily screening and temperature check in Transparent Classroom prior to arrival. These are essential to ensure the safety of the OCC community. All information will be kept confidential.

Group sizes and Outside time

Although classroom sizes will remain the same as years prior, we will not be mixing groups of children throughout the day. Before school and After school care will occur in each classroom. Physical distancing will be practiced, modeled and encouraged in an age-appropriate manner. Staff will model and instruct as needed.

Staff Responsibilities

Staff members will have a pre-shift health and temperature screening. No staff member may report to work if showing symptoms of Covid-19.

Additional paid sick days have been added to staff contracts to facilitate this.

Staff will be assigned to work with the same group of children daily except for staff breaks or absentee coverage. If there are enrichment activities (such as a music class) that require all students to rotate through a single room, the children will still be separated by class and the teacher of this enrichment activity will wear a mask and follow established safety protocols. Families will be notified of any enrichment activity in advance with the opportunity to opt out if desired.

Staff are required to practice social distancing during breaks. Masks will be worn by all employees at all times with the following exceptions. All staff will be allowed to remove their masks while eating. In shared spaces, all employees will wear masks. All visitors will be required to wear a mask if entering OCC. When interacting with a visitor, all employees, even if vaccinated, will wear a mask.

Any staff member showing signs of illness will be asked to immediately leave the building. If immediate departure is not feasible, she will be isolated until such time is possible. [Symptoms of Coronavirus | CDC](#)

Employees who have symptoms of Covid-19 must notify the Safety Officer as soon as possible and remain home. Sick employees should follow CDC recommended steps [What to Do If You Are Sick | CDC](#) and not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in conjunction with a health care provider. [Disposition of Non-Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19 | CDC](#)

Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with Covid-19 should notify the Safety Officer and follow [Standard Precautions - CDC](#).

Specific details regarding staff absences due to Covid-19 are outlined in employment letters.

The school will report to families any known exposures to Covid-19 positive individuals while respecting the privacy of the individual.

Working with Children

Children will be monitored at all times. There will be regular and frequent hand washing with soap and water for staff and children. All children over the age of 2 years are required to wear masks at all times while in school, even when social distancing can be achieved. Masks for children will not be required outdoors. Families should provide face coverings for their children. If you need assistance getting face coverings for your children, please reach out to the Covid-19 safety officer and OCC will provide masks for those in need.

We will be allowing additional ventilation in the classrooms by opening windows whenever possible to provide a flow of fresh air. In addition, OCC runs HEPA air cleaners in the classrooms when the windows are closed.

Quarantine and isolation policies:

1. Staying Home When Sick (Isolating) and Getting Tested

Children and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to a healthcare provider for testing and care. Parents and guardians are asked to be on the alert for signs of new illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick.

- Fever, temperature 100.4 °F or higher, or chills
- Unexplained cough, not associated with recovery from previous infection.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat

- Unexplained congestion or runny nose, not associated with recovery from previous infection or allergy.
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or stomachache

Staying home when sick with COVID-19 (isolating) is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of programs and prevent spread to others.

How to calculate the isolation period:

Day 0 of isolation is

- the first day of symptoms, or
- for people who do not have symptoms, the specimen collection date of the positive viral test.

OCC policy on ending isolation is based on when symptoms started and whether they improved for people who have COVID-19 symptoms (symptomatic), or based on the date of a positive test for people who do not have symptoms (asymptomatic).

Length of isolation:

Parents may continue following our previous policy of a 10-day isolation following day 0 as defined above, with return to school conditioned upon the child also being fever-free for 72 hours, or fever-free for 24 hours with a negative COVID test and free of any symptoms defined above, without medication. *This update extends this policy to include an alternative approach, using COVID-19 at-home tests to guide a potential earlier return to school.*

Staff and children who have presumed or confirmed COVID-19 should stay home and isolate for at least 5 full days and stay away from other people as much as possible. They may return after a minimum of 5 days, following two sequential negative antigen tests on or after day 5.¹

- Staff and children in primary classrooms without symptoms can end isolation and return to OCC after 10 days. Alternatively, they may return to OCC a minimum of 5 full days, following a negative antigen

¹Recommended in Andrejko et al. (<https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/37370587>) which showed that COVID-19 infection with the omicron variant is reported to last ~9-11 days in healthy adults.

test on or after day 5, and a second negative antigen test on the following day prior to returning to school.

- Staff and children in primary classrooms who once had symptoms can end isolation and return to OCC after 10 days, if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and if symptoms have improved. Alternatively they may return a minimum of 5 full days if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and if symptoms have improved, following a negative antigen test on or after day 5, and a second negative antigen test on the following day prior to returning to school.

Returning from isolation:

Upon return to OCC, up to day 10, staff and children 2 and over will be asked to wear N95 or KN95 masks as these have been shown in a CDC study to best reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission in indoor settings². If needed OCC will provide masks. Children will be monitored to ensure proper mask use; if the N95/KN95 mask is not well tolerated (e.g. the child takes it off more frequently, it doesn't fit securely), we will revert to a previous well-tolerated mask, since fit and wear are essential for good protection. During times where children do not wear masks, such as during meals, snacks, and naptime, children who are returning from isolation will be kept 6 feet apart whenever possible in a manner that does not stigmatize or exclude children – using already set-up and used lunch tables and cot placements that are socially distanced - while still under teacher supervision.

2. Quarantine and Following up of Close Contacts to a COVID-19 Positive Case

When someone in OCC tests positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and is a presumed case, we aim to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our OCC community of families.

²https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106e1.htm?s_cid=mm7106e1_w%20

Close contacts of the index case are defined by the CDC as those who were less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period³. In our OCC classroom setting, where children move about the classroom and engage with classmates through the day, that includes all children in the classroom.

In addition to notifying staff and families directly when someone in the program was a close contact, OCC will collaborate with state and local health departments, to the extent allowable by federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial privacy laws, regulations and other applicable laws, to confidentially report cases of COVID-19.

If a child has close contact as defined above with someone outside the classroom who tests positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and is a presumed case, we require that parents report the exposure and follow quarantine policies outlined below in order to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our OCC community.

Who Should Quarantine:

Children and staff who come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 should quarantine if they have not had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a viral test), regardless of vaccination status. Vaccines offer protection from severe disease but lesser protection from transmission.

In the case of a classroom-wide exposure, i.e. exposure at school to a student or teacher with COVID-19, a student who was absent and therefore unexposed is naturally not required to quarantine and may continue to attend OCC if staffing allows. In such a case parents are asked to contact the OCC Head of School.

How to calculate the quarantine period:

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<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

Day 0 of quarantine is the last date of exposure to a COVID-19 positive or presumed positive person.

OCC policy on quarantine presumes exposure from the index case starting 48 hours prior to the first day of symptoms, positive antigen test, or for people who do not have symptoms, the specimen collection date of the positive viral test.

Length of quarantine:

Children and staff who did not have confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a viral test) should stay home and quarantine for at least 10 days or, alternatively, 5 full days with testing, and stay away from other people as much as possible.

- Staff and children without symptoms can end quarantine and return to OCC after 10 full days. Alternatively, they may return to OCC at least 5 full days and following a negative PCR test on or after day 5. These tests can be scheduled through a family physician. Centre County also hosts a free COVID-19 testing site⁴ that may perform PCR tests.

For 10 days after their last exposure to someone with COVID-19, they should watch for fever (100.4°F or greater), cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID-19 symptoms.

People who test positive and/or develop COVID-19 symptoms should follow guidelines for isolation, above.

Returning from quarantine:

Upon return to OCC, up to day 10, staff and children 2 and over will be asked to wear N95 or KN95 masks as these have been shown in a CDC study to best reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission in indoor settings⁵. If needed OCC will provide masks. Children will be monitored to ensure proper mask use; if the N95/KN95 mask is not well tolerated (e.g. the child takes it off more frequently, it doesn't fit securely), we will revert to a

⁴ Details at <https://centrecountypa.gov/2225/COVID-19-Testing-Site>

⁵ https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106e1.htm?s_cid=mm7106e1_w%20

previous well-tolerated mask, since fit and wear are essential for good protection. During times where children do not wear masks, such as during meals, snacks, and naptime, children who are returning from isolation will be kept 6 feet apart whenever possible in a manner that does not stigmatize or exclude children – using already set-up and used lunch tables and cot placements that are socially distanced - while still safely under teacher supervision.

OCC Household exposure:

If a direct family or household member of an OCC student was exposed to COVID-19 and in quarantine but without confirmed infection (no symptoms or positive test), or is exhibiting symptoms consistent with covid-19 infection (no known exposure or positive test), the appropriate course of action depends on circumstances. The parents or guardians of the OCC student are asked to contact the covid safety officer for guidance before coming to school.

Closure

OCC will close if directed to do so by the government.

Informational Links

[Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open | CDC](#)

[Summer Recreation Camps Pools - PA Department of Health](#)

[Germ Prevention Strategies - HealthyChildren.org](#)

[When to Keep Your Child Home from Child Care ...](#)

[Things to Know about the COVID 19 Pandemic](#)

[When and How to Wash Your Hands ...](#)

[Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease | CDC](#)