

Our Children's Center
Covid-19 Safety Plan
August 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 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 is 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 changes in cohorting and masking for staff and students and introduces a test-to-stay option following exposure to Covid-19.

Signage and Information

Information regarding this plan and resources will be disseminated to all families and employees. Informational links are included at the end of this plan.

Vaccinations

OCC strongly encourages all students, parents, and any other adults who live with students to get vaccinated and boosted against Covid-19 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.

Determination of Risk Level

The Safety Officer and Covid Committee will use multiple metrics to determine risk level including but not limited to CDC community levels and local hospitalization rates. When the level shifts, along with any school cases, families and staff will be notified via email and masking/cohort policy changes will go into effect.

Mask Use

All staff and children over the age of 2 years are required to wear masks when community levels are high or when following quarantine procedure. Under these circumstances, staff and students aged two and older must wear a well-fitting N95/KN95 mask at all times except while napping, eating, or drinking. Visitors will also be asked to mask at these times.

Masking will always be a supported option for staff and students regardless of community level. Individual masking by students will be encouraged at their family's request. Families should provide well-fitting N95/KN95 face coverings for their children as needed. If you need assistance getting face coverings for your child(ren), please reach out to the Covid-19 Safety Officer.

Any request for a medical exemption to this mask policy will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Cohorts

Students from multiple classrooms will be sharing space in the Big Room during extended care (before and after school) and for Primary nap in the afternoons. When community levels are high or if there is a classroom exposure, students will return to cohorting with their separate classrooms to minimize potential spread.

Staff will be assigned to work with the same group of children daily except for staff breaks or absentee coverage.

Ventilation and Cleaning

We promote additional ventilation in the classrooms by opening windows as possible to provide a flow of fresh air. OCC runs HEPA air cleaners in the classrooms during school hours. Each school space is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected every day.

Staff and students will practice regular and frequent hand washing with soap and water. Handwashing procedural illustrations are found in each classroom and in all restrooms.

Testing After Large Gatherings and Social Events

OCC strongly encourages staff members and students to perform Covid tests before returning to school after social gatherings (holidays, school breaks, trips, etc.). The majority of cases last year occurred after breaks, so we ask all community members to use extra caution before returning to school. Rapid antigen tests will be available for pickup before school breaks upon request.

When a Student or Staff Member is Sick

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. Children and staff must stay 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.

- Fever, temperature 100.4 °F or higher, or chills
- Diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, or stomachache
- 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

OCC asks that any student or staff member test for Covid-19 before school when having any symptoms of illness. No child may return to the facility until they are 24 hours fever-free with a negative covid test, or 72 hours fever-free and with reduced symptoms. Staff members who are exhibiting any symptoms but are fever-free and have tested negative for Covid-19 before school will be required to mask.

Children will be closely monitored for signs of illness at all times. If a child becomes ill while at school, they 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 before entering the building. 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.

Staff and students who are well but who have a sick family or household member should notify the Safety Officer and refer to the Household Contact section below regarding procedure.

Staff and students who test positive for Covid-19 or are exhibiting symptoms and have had a possible exposure must contact the Safety Officer immediately and remain home, following the isolation procedure outlined below.

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

Quarantine and Isolation Policies

1. Staying Home When Sick ([Isolating](#))

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.

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:

Staff and students aged two and over have two options regarding length of isolation.

Staff and students 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 antigen test and free of any symptoms defined above without medication. *Children under the age of two are required to isolate for the full 10 days and be fever-free for at least 72 hours, as they are not practiced with masking and antigen tests are not reliable when used for children under the age of two¹.

Staff and children aged two and over 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. Staff and students aged two and older may then return after a minimum of 5 days, following two sequential negative antigen tests on or after day 5.²

- Staff and children without symptoms can end isolation and return to OCC after 10 days. Alternatively, staff and students aged two and older may return to OCC a minimum of 5 full days, 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.
- Staff and children who 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, staff and students aged two and older 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.

¹<https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-testing-guidance/>

²Recommended 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.

Returning from isolation:

Upon return to OCC, up to day 10, staff and children aged two 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 settings³. 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. We also recognize the need for reliable childcare and are working to provide OCC families with options to accommodate their varied needs. Staff and families will be responsible for choosing which quarantine procedure is the best fit for their family. If you have questions about the three options, please contact the Safety Officer.

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

³https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106e1.htm?s_cid=mm7106e1_w%20

24-hour period⁴. 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 follow a quarantine procedure 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 not required to quarantine but will be asked to mask for at least 5 full days following the classroom exposure date.

How to calculate the quarantine period:

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

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

people who do not have symptoms, the specimen collection date of the positive viral test.

Quarantine options

A. 10 full days

- Staff and children without symptoms can end quarantine and return to OCC after 10 full days.

B. 5 full days with a negative PCR test

- Staff and students without symptoms may return to OCC after 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 site⁵ that may perform PCR tests.

C. Test to Stay

- Staff and students 2 years old and over* without symptoms may remain in school and complete one of the following testing schedules: antigen (rapid) tests before school on days 1-4 and a PCR test on day 5, or antigen (rapid) tests on days 1-10. Until they receive the final negative test result, staff and students will be required to wear well-fitting N95/KN95 masks. After completing the required testing and masking procedures, staff and students may return to following community level guidelines.

*Students under the age of two are unable to participate in the Test to Stay program at this time due to their limited practice with masking and limited reliability of antigen tests in this age group.

For 10 days after their last exposure to someone with Covid-19, staff and students 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 as stated above.

⁵ Details at <https://centrecountypa.gov/2225/COVID-19-Testing-Site>

Household Exposure:

If a direct family or household member of an OCC student or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, the student/staff member will be required to remain home from school until the time at which the positive person is out of isolation. The household member's last day of isolation is then considered to be day 0 of the student/staff member's quarantine period, which will follow one of the three options listed above.

If a direct family or household member of an OCC student or staff member 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.

In both situations, the parents or guardians of the OCC student are asked to contact the Covid safety officer for guidance before returning 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](#)