



Effective March 21, 2022

COVID-19 "PAUSE"

Dear Families and Employees,

Oregon is entering its latest transition in the COVID-19 pandemic and transitioning from a state of emergency to endemic & best practice phase. The Early Learning Division (ELD) in coordination with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) have announced a "PAUSE" to previous isolation & quarantine requirements as it pertains to child care stable groups. This transition includes a number of significant changes to the Health & Safety Guidelines Salem Child Development Center (SCDC) has been implementing. SCDC will continue to follow best practices protocols and recommended prevention strategies to help prevent exposure and transmission of COVID-19. This is an outline of the current changes to SCDC's Health & Safety Guidelines:

General COVID-19 Exclusion Protocol

- SCDC is required to notify the Local Public Health Authority of any confirmed COVID-19 case among children or employees.
- SCDC will exclude any child, employee or other individual with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis for at least 5 days (if fever free for 24 hours and symptoms are improving). **SCDC strongly recommends masking for 5 additional days for those that are 2 years and older.**
- SCDC will exclude any child, employee or other individual with a PRESUMPTIVE COVID-19 diagnosis (known exposure & COVID-like symptoms) until the individual:
 - Has a negative test
 - AND is fever free for 24 hours
 - AND symptoms are improving
 - OR remains out of care and isolates for a minimum of 5 days and is fever free for 24 hours with improved symptoms.
- At this time it is not a requirement that those exposed to a positive COVID-19 case quarantine. In an effort to allow families & employees to make the appropriate decisions for their personal health, SCDC will notify anyone determined to be a close contact of a positive case that they have been exposed. This will allow everyone to take precautions, watch for symptoms & get tested if symptoms present themselves.
- SCDC will give as much notice as possible to families & employees should we be required to reinstate past COVID-19 Emergency Child Care (ECC) protocols. This could be due to State announcement and/or related to county risk levels. Additionally, we will respond appropriately, following local public health and State guidance, to any exposure to, presumptive or confirmed case of COVID-19 within the child care program.
- We will continue to contact trace visitors and individuals who pick-up and drop-off. Any individual on the premises that has contact with the child care program shall be recorded on the visitors' log or sign in/out sheets as appropriate. We will retain these records for at least two years.
- The current Isolation & Quarantine Guidance is included at the end of this document for your reference.

- **Household Illness Exclusion Policy:**
 - Suspended as long as we remain in the “pause” phase.
 - Please be mindful of illnesses that will continue to show up. As always, we ask you to keep your child out of care, or a child will be sent home if they exhibit symptoms such as fever, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, severe cough, unusual yellow color to skin or eyes, skin or eye lesions or rashes that are severe, weeping, or pus-filled, stiff neck and headache with one or more of the symptoms listed previously, difficult breathing or abnormal wheezing, or complaints of severe pain. Then, the child may return 24 hours after symptoms resolve, or with documented direction/approval from a medical professional.
- **Face Coverings:**
 - Face coverings are welcome, but optional for all employees, families, children & visitors. SCDC respects each person’s individual decision on wearing a face covering. We appreciate your understanding, patience & grace as we all work together to navigate this transition. Please be respectful of others’ decisions on wearing a face covering.
 - SCDC will be following the guidance from the ELD, OHA, and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that may impact the need to adjust face covering requirements. Face coverings may be required again for employees & age appropriate children if an outbreak or increased community spread requires additional protection. SCDC will monitor the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html> to guide these decisions if necessary.
- **Drop-off & Pick-up Procedures:**
 - Face coverings are encouraged, but optional, at drop-off & pick-up. Families are required to remain outside of childcare facilities at drop-off and pick-up. Knock or ring the doorbell at your child’s designated entrance/exit. SCDC will be making some adjustments to drop-off & pick-up procedures at some of our locations. You will be given additional information soon if there is a change that will directly impact your family.
 - Daily drop-off health checks will not be required.
- **Group Size & Stable Groups:**
 - Children and employees will continue to remain in stable groups as much as possible. Each stable group will practice social distancing from other stable groups within the facility (if there are multiple stable groups). Only employees and children assigned to the stable group may enter their designated classroom/space, unless they are providing special services (e.g. Early Intervention or Special Education), or to maintain ratios during employee breaks. Employees will complete daily logs documenting any person outside of the stable group who comes into contact with the stable group, including dates and times of arrival and departure. Employees and children are NOT required to physically distance from members of their stable group.
- **Visitors:** Visitors may include building maintenance personnel, delivery services, breastfeeding mothers or other parents/guardians whose children’s dietary needs require parental assistance, professionals providing special or emergency services, or a family member checking on a child due to a concern regarding the child’s health and safety. Limited facility tours for prospective families are available by appointment only. Any visitor may choose to wear a face covering, use an outdoor space if appropriate and available, and preschedule when possible as groups are limited to one visitor at a time.
- **Daily Activities:** SCDC will not be participating in field trips at this time. Sharing of toys and materials will be limited and children will be required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer between activities. All classroom materials will be cleaned and sanitized between uses by a stable group, as they become dirty and at least weekly.

- **Handwashing & Hand Sanitizer:** Handwashing and/or hand sanitizer will be easily accessible to each stable group, though hand sanitizer will be stored out of the reach of children when not in use.
 - All employees and children will be required to wash their hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds as follows:
 - Before and after eating, preparing food or bottles
 - Before and after administering medication
 - After toileting or assisting with toileting
 - Before and after diapering
 - All employees and children will be required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer as follows:
 - After wiping a nose, coughing or sneezing
 - After coming in from outdoors
 - Upon entering and leaving the facility
 - When moving between stable groups
 - Before and after putting-on, taking-off or touching a face covering.
- **Food & Nutrition:** Snacks and milk will continue to be provided by SCDC, however food will be prepackaged into individual servings. Families are still welcome to provide their own snacks and will need to continue to provide a lunch, unless school district food services are available. Children will be closely supervised to prevent sharing of food. All eating surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized before and after snacks and meals. Drinking fountains may only be used to fill individual water bottles. Please provide your child with a clean labeled water bottle daily.
- **Cleaning & Building Maintenance:** At early learning programs a disinfecting bleach solution will be made fresh daily and used to clean high touch surfaces throughout each day. At school age programs school district approved products will be used to clean high touch surfaces throughout each day. Toys and other learning materials will be collected after use and cleaned and sanitized using a three step process of washing with soap, rinsing with water and sanitizing for germs.
- **Hours of Operation:**
 - 2021-2022 School Year Hours: 6:45a-5:30p through June 17, 2022
 - Summer Session hours: 6:45a-5:45p beginning June 20, 2022
 - 2022-2023 School Year Hours: 6:45a-6:00p beginning 1st day of school in September

We will continue to remain diligent at recognizing signs of illness & ask that you continue to help us by staying home if anyone in your household is not feeling well. As we continue to take care of our own personal health, we all have a responsibility for keeping each other safe. SCDC asks that you continue to be socially responsible and give everyone the space they need to feel safe. Anyone may choose to wear a face covering in situations when it is not required.

THANK YOU

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