



July 24, 2020

Hello PIC Families,

As we have noted from the early days of our COVID-19 communications, we are in the midst of a rapidly changing situation. When we first laid out our COVID-19 Family Handbook, we knew it was a “living” document that would be updated as needed.

**I am writing to highlight important updates and additions to the COVID-19 Family Handbook, including mask wearing, travel restrictions, payment during self-quarantine, and drop-off/pick-up procedures.**

- **Mask Wearing**

There continues to be more and more medical literature showing that mask wearing can substantially reduce the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. The Governor has released an order that all children over the age of two wear a mask when in public spaces. We know that children going to Kindergarten in the fall will be required to wear masks during the school day.

- Wearing a mask has become a new cultural norm. With this in mind, **PIC will treat mask wearing like a developmental skill in our preschool age classrooms (3-5 year olds)**, much in the same way that we approach toilet learning. We will practice putting masks on and taking them off while at PIC. With any new skill, the more we practice, the easier it will become.

- While the following mask wearing information will be added to our handbooks now, we note that this is a topic of continued review and discussion and will be updated as needed.

- All adults **must** wear masks that cover their nose and mouth when on PIC grounds.

- **Children three years and older should bring two masks with them each day to school. One mask should be worn when arriving for check-in and the other can be placed in their backpack.**
  - Masks are required to be worn by school-age children when inside.
  - Please wash cloth masks daily or dispose of single-use masks daily. *This is a very important step in mask wearing.*
  - Mask wearing is a learning process that will take some time. We encourage families to help their child learn to independently put on and remove masks. You may want to watch [Elmo and Dr. Gupta talk about wearing a mask](#) with your child.
- **Travel Restrictions**

Families and Staff who travel to [a state with increasing cases of COVID-19](#) should self-quarantine for a 14-day period. The quarantine period begins the date of return to Philadelphia or the surrounding area. For the health and safety of our full community, we ask that you notify Deb Green at [dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org](mailto:dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org) or Jessica Carter at [jcarter@parentinfantcenter.org](mailto:jcarter@parentinfantcenter.org) of your travel plans so that we can plan staffing based on enrollment numbers.
  - **Payment During Self-quarantine**

We know that some families have already been ordered to self-quarantine by their physicians. We also know that we may face situations where a positive COVID-19 test result from a child or teacher is reported. In the event of a positive test result, that classrooms will close and the teachers and families of those rooms will be asked to self-quarantine.

From the onset of this pandemic, we have worked hard to support our teachers. Through the support of the federal PPP loan and the generous donations of PIC families and friends, we have been able to continue the salaries and benefits of our teachers through our closure. We now have 60 staff members who have returned to PIC. We are extremely grateful for the individual support that made that happen.

We must continue to support the teachers in our classrooms by assuring them that if they are required to self-quarantine because of exposure to COVID-19 at PIC, they will be paid during the period of quarantine.

**In order to pay our teachers, we need to continue to charge families during any short-term closures and/or if the family is required to self-quarantine**

**for reasons outside of PIC.**

Our Finance Committee and Board will be addressing our tuition policy regarding a potential longer term closure and we will post that updated Parent Agreement information by the end of August.

- **Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures**

One of the most difficult changes in our post-COVID-19 PIC culture is the necessity to change the way teachers interact with families on a daily basis. Our goal is to limit parent-teacher conversations with families at drop-off and pick-up and rely on electronic communication as our means of ongoing interaction. **We ask that you not engage in conversations with teachers at drop-off and pick-up.**

Families are not allowed on the Nature Playground, the TotLot, or the PAS fields to pick up children. A PIC staff member will bring each child to the pick-up person.

In order to reduce as much intermingling contact as possible, we ask that families who pick up children on the blacktop wait along the perimeter (close to the Nature Playground fence) for their child to be brought to them (or to run to them!)

We hope that the safety measures put in place will allow PIC to continue caring for children. We appreciate your partnership and support. It is by working together that we will succeed.

*Thank you for believing in PIC.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Green". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Green  
Executive Director