



January 11, 2021

Hello PIC Families,

I am writing today with some updates to our COVID-19 policies and protocols. Our COVID Task Force met last week and discussed where we are in dealing with the pandemic and changes that we may need to make. All updates will be put into our COVID Handbooks for Families and Staff, and those documents will be posted on our website.

Definitions:

We are adding the following definitions to clarify some terms that can be confusing.

- *Close contact*: Closer than 6 feet apart AND more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.
- *Exposure*: Close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 starting 48 hours before the onset of their symptoms; or close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 starting 48 hours before the test, if the person who tests positive is asymptomatic.
- *Isolation*: Keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 away from others, even in their own home (not sharing bathroom, kitchen, or bedroom).
- *Quarantine*: Separates and restricts people to stay in their household if they may have been exposed to COVID-19 or have participated in activities that may increase the risk of COVID-19 exposure.

PIC Guidelines for Indoor Gatherings and Travel:

Given the current high rates of COVID-19 transmission in Pennsylvania and around the country, PIC's policies on indoor gatherings and out-of-state travel will remain in place until further notice.

- **Indoor Gatherings: Families and staff members who gather indoors with anyone who is not in their current household need to quarantine for 14 days before returning to PIC.**
- **Travel: We have slightly changed the language for PIC's travel guidelines to allow for those who may commute to and from work or travel to an adjoining state for less than 24 hours. Families and staff members who travel outside of Pennsylvania for more than 24 hours must quarantine for 14 days beginning on the date of return before returning to PIC.**

We understand that there may be specific and/or extenuating circumstances regarding your family's home or work situations as they pertain to indoor gatherings or travel. Please contact me at dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org to review the situation.

Vaccines

There is significant hope that accompanies the ongoing COVID-19 vaccine distribution. We are awaiting word from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) if the vaccine will be a requirement for staff and/or children enrolled or working in child care centers in PA. At this time, PIC will not mandate the COVID-19 vaccine for staff members, parents or children, however, **we strongly encourage all eligible families and staff members to get the vaccine when they are able to do so.** We will continue to communicate information about the vaccines, the distribution, and any new associated policies.

Individuals will not be excluded from coming to PIC if they have a fever within 48 hours after being vaccinated, as fevers are one of the more common side-effects of the vaccine. If you do not pass the screen because of a fever, please let one of the check-in staff members know that you have recently been vaccinated. We will also update our screening questionnaire to reflect this change.

To register to get more information on the Philadelphia vaccination plan, see the link below. This allows for a pre-registration once the vaccine is available for the group that you are in. [COVIDreadi](#), the city's first sign-up site.

The organization Black Doctors COVID-19 (BDCC) will also be offering vaccines to Phase 1B individuals.

To pre-register, please use the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScNQna51f7mv2Lom4vUQpq5k1GKIMfENI0gznpWbD-SDQgLSA/viewform>

Morning Drop-off Procedure

We will continue with our morning drop-off procedures.

A few reminders:

- Before entering, all adults and children should use the hand sanitizer set at the stations near the entrances.
- Families should continue to space themselves 6 feet apart while awaiting temperature taking.
- Accurate temperature readings are much easier when children are wearing hats.
- For parents of infants and toddlers entering the buildings, please continue to be vigilant in allowing only one family on the stairs or in a hallway at any time.

Evening Pick-up Procedure

Families should continue to space themselves 6 feet apart from one another, staff members, and children outside of their household at pick-up as well.

COVID-19 Cases Report

Since July, PIC has had six reports of COVID positive cases. We have two parents, two teachers and two children who have tested positive. Only one of these individuals was at PIC during the 48 hour infectious period.

The number of COVID-19 positive cases at PIC continues to be significantly lower than in many other early childhood programs. Our goal continues to be to remain open for children and families and as such, we are holding tight with our policies and protocols that have thus far served us well.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

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

Deb Green
Executive Director