



March 12, 2021

Hello PIC Families,

I am writing with updates regarding our PIC COVID policies.

First, I thank our community once again for your incredible diligence, sacrifices and patience over this very long year. We took a strong stance in creating and sticking with policies that may have been seen as quite conservative, but that I believe greatly helped us in keeping safe, and staying open this past year.

Several members of our COVID Task Force have reviewed our current policies, as well as those of the CDC and the Philadelphia and PA Health Departments, and the following changes have been made. These changes will be reflected on our screening tool as of Monday, March 15.

Gatherings

- PIC will adopt the CDC's new recommendations released on 3/8/21 regarding gatherings among vaccinated individuals. Fully vaccinated people (defined as at least two weeks after the last COVID-19 shot) are able to do the following without the need to quarantine before returning to PIC:
 - Gather with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing;
 - Gather indoors with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 without wearing masks or physical distancing;
 - Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure to COVID-19 if not having any symptoms of COVID-19.

Example: Vaccinated grandparents can visit with healthy unvaccinated children and grandchildren (from one household), without the need for quarantining before or after the visit.

- PIC will follow the City of Philadelphia's guidance that allows indoor gatherings with unvaccinated members of one other household so long as masks are worn **at all times** (i.e., no eating or drinking indoors together). **If masks are not worn at all times during such a gathering,**

PIC families/staff will need to quarantine for 14 days following this gathering before returning to PIC.

However, anyone (whether vaccinated or not) who develops COVID-19 symptoms must stay home, isolate themselves, and seek care/testing from their physician (see policy on return to PIC following new symptoms of COVID-19)

Though the CDC and city have loosened restrictions for gatherings, particularly among vaccinated individuals, please keep in mind that COVID-19 continues to circulate widely, and **it remains safer for all to gather outdoors, with social distancing, masks on at all times, and with frequent hand washing. This is encouraged whenever possible.**

Travel

PIC will continue to require a 14-day quarantine after traveling, except when ALL of the following are met:

- PIC families/staff travel to their destination with only their immediate household or with fully vaccinated individuals from outside of their household (i.e., a private car)
- PIC families/staff stay in housing with only their immediate household or with fully vaccinated individuals from outside their household (i.e., stay in a private residence or in a private room)
- PIC families/staff follow all of the guidelines for gatherings while away (as described above)

If all of the above criteria are met, then PIC families/staff can return to PIC directly after returning from their travel, without the need for a 14 day quarantine. Before you travel, however, you should check for any local guidelines regarding travel restrictions at your destination; some states/cities may require testing before traveling or quarantining at your destination upon your arrival.

Example: No quarantine would be required upon returning from travel if a PIC family/staff member were to drive in a car (with only members of their household or fully vaccinated individuals) out of the state to a private residence, stay at that private residence with only members of their own household (or with others who are fully vaccinated), follow all regulations regarding gatherings while away, and return by car.

Other considerations regarding travel:

- Although PA has lifted its travel ban, travel is still discouraged by the CDC since travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19.
- All passengers coming into the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding a flight to the United States.
- Masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

We ask that as much as possible, avoid large gatherings, and when in public spaces please continue to wear masks and practice social distancing. And we hope that everyone will get the vaccine when they are able!

At PIC

- Because children cannot yet be vaccinated at this time, PIC will continue to keep the classrooms as cohorts/pods and the children will not mix throughout the day.
- All teachers will continue to wear masks at PIC inside and out when with children.
- Children over the age of two will continue to wear masks indoor and out.
- PIC's drop-off and pick-up procedure has not changed.
- Because of the staffing limitations associated with outdoor drop-off and pick-up, we will continue with our 8:30 a.m to 5:30 p.m. hours of operation for the foreseeable future.
- We ask that family members continue to keep a 6 foot distance from one another when dropping off and picking up children.

We understand that guidance may continue to change. We will continue to review any new guidance and make decisions that we feel are in the best interest of our community.

We ask that you read the policies carefully and refer to them often.

We know how very long it has been since many families have seen their loved ones and we hope this updated guidance will provide some comfort.

As always thank you for your continued partnership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie".

Deb Green
Executive Director