



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

August 2, 2021

Hello Early Learning Families,

As the calendar turns to August, we remain very concerned about the COVID-19 virus. I had certainly hoped to be at a different place as we head into the fall.

Unfortunately, the COVID Delta variant continues to be a strong and highly contagious force, and there has been a significant increase in the number of cases throughout the country, including Philadelphia. In addition, public health officials are investigating whether the Delta variant may pose a greater risk to children than prior COVID strains, especially in concert with other respiratory viruses, such as RSV or the flu.

It is critical to remember that the children we live and work with every day at PIC are NOT protected by the COVID vaccine because there is not yet an approved vaccine for children under the age of 12.

Please continue to follow ALL of the guidelines below to help prevent COVID community spread at PIC. I believe it would be foolish to let our guard down now when we have done so well for so long.

- **WEAR MASKS.** Masks are required inside and outside on PIC grounds by all children and adults over the age of 2.
- **COMPLETE DAILY SCREENING.** We will continue to use our screening tool daily. Please show your “green screen” to a classroom teacher at drop-off.
- **GET VACCINATED.** If you are eligible for vaccination, please consider doing so. It is our best chance to keep any community spread away from PIC. Even in the small chance of a breakthrough COVID infection, vaccinated individuals are far more likely to stay out of the hospital.
- **QUARANTINE AFTER TRAVELING WITH UNVACCINATED ADULTS OR CHILDREN.**
If traveling by plane, train or bus (unless commuting to work or school), please follow our guideline of either (1) quarantining for 10 days if returning to PIC without a negative test result or (2) quarantining for 7 days with a negative test result. We greatly appreciate the number of families who have let us know that their child will be at home for the designated quarantine time after travel.
- **KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF EXPERIENCING COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS.** Symptoms of COVID-19 infection in children can include: fever or chills, cough, runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, difficulty breathing, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, poor appetite. Any child(ren) with these symptoms must get a test before returning to PIC. Alternatively, you can keep your child home for 10 days, or bring in a physician note that your child may return to PIC.

Please note the following changes as we continue to provide child care during the pandemic. *Plans may change as more COVID-related information becomes available.*

- **As of Monday, August 16, we will move to indoor pick-up at the end of the day.** Similar to indoor drop-off, families will use their fobs to enter the building at their designated time.
- **As of Monday, August 30, we will return to 8am-6pm daily schedule.**
- **Staggered drop-off and pick-up times will continue. Families must keep to their assigned schedule** to prevent larger groups in our hallways.
 - Times will be: 8am-5pm | 8:30am- 5:30pm | 9am-6pm.
 - New drop-off and pick-up times will be sent to all families by mid-August.
 - Longer hours may be requested for those in essential work positions. Please send an email to Enrollment Coordinator Grace (Piaña) Silow at gpiana@parentinfantcenter.org THIS WEEK to request specific times.
 - Families with Pre-K Counts funding will have times assigned by the Pre-K Counts program (not by PIC).

Coordinating the staggered indoor drop-off and pick-up schedules is complicated. We ask for your patience as we work this through for over 250 families.

These are important guidelines that will continue into the fall.

- **Families are NOT permitted to enter the classrooms.** Please drop children at their classroom door.
- **Classrooms will remain in “buddy classroom” cohorts** to limit significant community spread. Only two classrooms (typically located next to one another) play together outside and/or inside.

I continue to ask families and staff to follow local and federal public health guidance when outside of PIC. Please consider PIC before making decisions off campus.

- **WEAR MASKS OFF-CAMPUS.** Mask wearing is advised for all vaccinated and unvaccinated adults and all children over the age of 2 while indoors, especially in places where you do not know that everyone is vaccinated.
- **STAY AWAY FROM LARGE GROUPS.** More and more incidents of COVID spread are being reported when unvaccinated AND vaccinated people gather in large groups.

We need to continue working together to keep our children, and the entire PIC Community safe.

Thank you for your continued support.



Deb Green
Executive Director