



# COVID GUIDELINES 2022-2023

## OVERVIEW

### **Important Notice**

It is important to understand that when your child is present at PIC, they will necessarily be in contact with staff members and other children (and by extension, their families) who are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the community. No amount of restrictions, guidelines or policies will eliminate all risk of exposure to COVID-19, as the virus can be transmitted by persons who are not symptomatic and/or prior to showing signs of infection.

### **PIC Oversight**

As a licensed child care center in Philadelphia, we need to follow the COVID guidance for early childhood that is released by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH.) We also stay informed of guidance from the CDC, the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL,) and the School District of Philadelphia. While often COVID guidance from various organizations aligns, in some situations the guidance can be different and/or quite challenging to interpret.

### **Family Responsibility**

Each family plays a *critical* role in reducing the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread at PIC by following the practices and procedures outlined in this handbook. ***The importance of open and honest communication between parents/guardians and PIC staff and teachers cannot be overstated during this time.*** We expect that all families will read and follow the directives in these guidelines in order to help ensure the health and safety of our children, staff and community.

### **Vaccines**

As of this update, there are currently two FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines in the US (Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine and Moderna mRNA vaccine), and a third that is approved under emergency use authorization (Johnson & Johnson vaccine). There are vaccines available for anyone 6 months old or older, including pregnant and lactating individuals. You cannot catch COVID-19 infection from the vaccine, and these vaccines do not affect your DNA. The vaccines do not cause your COVID test to be falsely positive.

It is **highly recommended** that all family members and children receive a full COVID vaccination series and boosters when eligible. The vaccine is required for employment at PIC for all those who do not qualify for an exemption and for any outside individuals (students, consultants, intervention support persons, etc.) who are inside our facility more than one hour per week.

If your child receives the COVID vaccine, please continue to send a copy of your child's vaccine card to Deb at [dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org](mailto:dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org) AFTER the vaccine series has been completed. We need to continue to track the number of vaccinated children

**We have a 100% vaccination rate among our PIC staff members.**

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Close contact:** Closer than 6 feet apart AND for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.

**Exposure:** Close contact with a COVID-positive person anytime between 48 hours before through 5 days after the onset of their symptoms (or before/after their positive test, if they don't have any symptoms).

**Household:** A household consists of people who live in a shared space for an extended period of time.

**Quarantine:** Separates and restricts people to stay in their household if they may have been exposed to COVID-19.

#### **Fully vaccinated:**

- >18 years old:
  - After 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccines, or
  - After 1 dose of Johnson and Johnson vaccine
- Children 12-17 years old: After 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccines
- Children 5-11 years old: After 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccines
- Children 6 months - 4 years old: After 3 doses of Pfizer vaccine or 2 doses of Moderna vaccine

#### **Vaccinated and boosted:**

- >50 years old and/or immunosuppressed: Two booster doses of Pfizer/Moderna mRNA vaccines
- 18 - 49 years old: One booster dose of Pfizer/Moderna mRNA vaccines
- Children 12-17 years old: One booster dose of Pfizer vaccine if primary vaccine series was completed with Pfizer vaccine (and none if primary vaccine series was completed with Moderna)
- Children 5-11 years old: One booster dose of Pfizer vaccine if primary vaccine series was completed with Pfizer vaccine (and none if primary vaccine series was completed with Moderna)
- Children 6 months - 4 years old: No boosters recommended as of yet

### **MITIGATION CRITERIA**

We are able to put reduced quarantine in place because we meet the following criteria for COVID-19 mitigation as outlined by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL.)

- Encouraging the wider ECE community to get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Enhancing ventilation (opening windows wherever possible and spending as much time as possible outdoors.)
- Practicing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities.
- Informing families of COVID exposures.
- Strongly encouraging correct use of face masks for all staff and students > 2 years of age when indoors, and always making masks widely available for students and staff.

## **MASKING**

The medical evidence is strong that mask wearing can substantially reduce the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. **We continue to require that masks be worn INDOORS by all children over the age of 2, all staff members, and by anyone who comes into our buildings. Masks are not required outdoors.**

Wearing a mask has become a new cultural norm. With this in mind, PIC will continue to treat mask wearing like a developmental skill in our twos and preschool age classrooms (2-5 year olds), much in the same way that we approach toilet learning. For many children, mask wearing is now second nature. But for those moving into the 2-year-olds rooms who are new to PIC, we will continue to practice mask wearing like any other skill.

## **SICK OR SYMPTOMATIC STAFF MEMBERS, FAMILIES, AND CHILDREN**

*Confidentiality of all health information, including symptoms and COVID-19 testing/diagnosis, will be maintained for all PIC children, staff and family members.*

**Children, staff members or family members should not be on site if they:**

1. Are showing signs of COVID-19 like symptoms, as **defined by PDPH:**

- |  |                                     |                                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ● <b>Fever (&gt;100.4 F) or chills</b>               | ● <b>Fatigue</b>                    | ● <b>Sore throat</b>              |
| ● <b>Cough</b>                                       | ● <b>Muscle or body aches</b>       | ● <b>Congestion or runny nose</b> |
| ● <b>Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</b> | ● <b>Headache</b>                   | ● <b>Nausea or vomiting</b>       |
|  | ● <b>New loss of taste or smell</b> | ● <b>Diarrhea</b>                 |

**Children or staff members who have COVID-like symptoms must:**

1. Stay home
2. Get a COVID-19 PCR test or a rapid antigen test (home antigen test is acceptable)
3. Fill out the [COVID EVENT SUBMISSION FORM](#) on our website

*Without a test your child must quarantine for 10 days after symptoms and can return on their 11th day. Note, for children with an isolated runny nose, PIC will not send the children home mid-day but require COVID testing prior to their return the following day.*

**NEGATIVE RESULT: Children may return with a NEGATIVE test result if they are fever-free without use of any fever-reducing medications (e.g., acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil)) for 24 hours; AND other symptoms (e.g., cough, runny nose) are improving.**

**POSITIVE RESULT: Email Executive Director Deb Green ([dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org](mailto:dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org)) and Assistant Director Jessica Carter ([jcarter@parentinfantcenter.org](mailto:jcarter@parentinfantcenter.org)) immediately if you (staff member)/ your child tests POSITIVE.**

*If a staff member discovers that a child has “COVID-19 like symptoms” during the school day, the family member (or emergency contact number) will be called and asked to pick up the child as soon as possible (with the exception of an isolated runny nose).*

## **EXPOSURE TO COVID**

### ***Staff and Children ≥ 2 years old (who are able to mask)***

- No quarantine is needed **unless** symptoms develop.
  - Although not required, we recommend that you get tested even if you do not have any symptoms. Either a PCR or rapid antigen test is acceptable. We encourage testing within 24 hours of the exposure and again 5 days after your last contact with the person who tested positive with COVID.
  - Continue to mask at PIC and in public indoor locations outside of PIC.
  - If a household exposure, we strongly encourage testing though it is not required for entry into PIC if you have no symptoms of COVID.

### ***Children < 2 years old***

Because children in this age group cannot reliably mask during the day, they need to quarantine at **home for 5 full days** if exposed to COVID and may return on the 6th day. It is recommended that a test is done on day 5 before returning to PIC.

## **COVID INFECTION**

### ***Staff and children ≥ 2 years old (who are able to mask)***

The quarantine time is now reduced to **5 full days (return on day 6) from the start of symptoms or the positive test date (whichever comes first)** as long as the following circumstances are met:

- No fever or other COVID symptoms for 24 hours before returning
- A mask is worn at all times between days 6 and 10 (including outside when around others.)

If a child ≥2 years old or a staff member tests positive for COVID and has quarantined for 5 full days, **no negative test is needed before returning to PIC.**

### ***Children < 2 years old***

Because children in this age group cannot reliably mask during the day, they need to continue to quarantine at **home for 10 full days** (return on day 11). No negative testing is needed in order to return on day 11.

## **POSSIBLE CENTER CLOSURE OF PIC DUE TO COVID**

PIC will work with the Philadelphia Department of Health to decide if/when closure of the Center is appropriate or required.

## **PAYMENT DURING QUARANTINE**

Families are responsible for the continued payment of tuition if their classroom is closed due to a COVID exposure.

## **RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES**

We have a wealth of excellent resources for families PIC's website. The link to the resources page of our website is: <https://parentinfantcenter.org/covid-19-supports-for-families>

***We continue to all be in this together!***