

Current COVID Guidelines, October 14, 2022

Hello PIC Families,

I am writing today to let you know that as of **Monday, October 17**, PIC will move to a masking-optional policy. We recognize how important masking has been during these past 2+ years, and we also recognize the importance of having young children see the faces of those they are with during the day.

Masking will be optional except for the following circumstances:

- **when the COVID-19 Community Level is high** according to the [CDC COVID-19 Community Level Indicators](#). In this instance, we will notify families and staff that indoor masking will be required at PIC until the Community Level returns to medium. **At a Community Level of medium, masking is strongly recommended, but is optional.**
- **in specific instances** where universal masking may be required, regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level, including:
 - **classroom- or center-wide outbreak,**
 - **or upon return from extended breaks and holidays** when increased social gatherings may heighten the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Masking when using public transportation or when in any crowded settings continues to be highly recommended.

Mask to Stay

Children > 2 years and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, are not required to quarantine at home unless COVID-like symptoms are present. Instead, they may return to PIC, but are required to wear a mask for 10 days.

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.

Isolation

Children > 2 years who are able to reliably wear a mask during the day and who test positive for COVID are required to isolate at home for at least 5 calendar days. If symptom-free after 5 days of isolation, children may return to PIC, but must wear a mask for an additional 5 days.

Children < 2 years and who test positive for COVID are required to isolate at home for 10 calendar days.

Parents/guardians of any child who tests positive for COVID must also notify me at dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org.

Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines are highly encouraged, but not required for children. Children six months of age and older are now eligible for the primary COVID vaccine and those five and older are eligible for booster shots. To learn more about vaccines and where to get them, visit the [Covid-19 Information Hub](#), the City of Philadelphia's website [here](#), or [vaccines.gov](#).

At PIC, some of our classrooms are at a 90% vaccination rate and we hope to continue to increase the percentages of COVID vaccinated children in ALL our classrooms. When your child is fully vaccinated, please send a copy of the vaccination card to me at dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org

General Health & Hygiene

At PIC, we keep as many windows open as possible, have air purifiers in areas where windows cannot be opened, are equipped with hand sanitizer in all rooms and have masks available as needed to further promote healthy learning and playing environments.

To further support the health and well-being of everyone at PIC, families are asked to monitor their child's health and keep children home if they are sick, and practice proper hand-washing with their child. If your child is sent home from PIC with COVID-like symptoms, you will continue to need to submit a negative COVID test before your child can return.

I recognize the number of COVID policy changes we have made over the past 2+ years and I am so grateful for the support of our full PIC community in understanding that we are all in this together.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.