

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Operating Policies and Procedures



The following policy and/or procedural changes will be followed by This is The Way Learning Center, as set forth by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) during this public health emergency, and for as long as it is deemed necessary. As the situation continues to evolve, This is The Way Learning Center will always abide by the requirements set forth by the OEC, CDC, and the local and state Departments of Health. While we understand that some of these requirements might not be ideal for the traditional “child care” setting and might cause disruption to your day, know that everything we are doing is to reduce the risk of spreading any infectious disease.

While the provisions listed herein will be our current operating procedures, please be advised that things may change day to day. This is The Way Learning Center is doing everything we can to keep all our children and staff safe and healthy. If at any time you decide to disregard or do not agree to follow any of the policies and procedures, then care for your child will be immediately terminated.

HEALTH SCREENING

All staff and children are required to be screened for any observable illness, including cold, cough, or respiratory distress, to confirm temperature below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, and to answer a series of health screening questions before entering the building.

Upon the first day, What will you be asked:

- Have you or a member of your household had any of the following symptoms today or in the past 14 days?
 - Fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
 - Dry Cough
 - Shortness of Breath
 - Chills
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore Throat
 - Muscle aches
 - Rash
- Have you been in contact with someone who is thought to have or has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Have you been instructed by a medical professional to self-quarantine due to possible exposure to COVID-19?

Questions that will be asked:

- 1. Has your child had any signs of illness in the past 24hrs?
- 2. Have you or anyone you live with become ill in the past 24hrs?
- 3. Have you or someone you live with, currently being tested for COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19?

If you answered “yes” to any of the above questions, then your child will not be allowed to enter the facility. Your child will not be allowed to enter the facility until you can answer “no” to all of the above questions. If your child’s health condition is due to a pre-existing condition (e.g., wheezing due to asthma), then a doctor’s note may be required to confirm the same. Please be advised, that your child may not be allowed to attend until the note from the doctor is received.

If you answered “no” to all of the above questions, then you and your child’s temperature will be taken. If the temperature reading is below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, your child will then be permitted to attend for the day and escorted to his/her classroom. If your child’s temperature is 100.0 Fahrenheit or greater, then your child will not be allowed to enter the building. Furthermore, if your child does have a temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, then they must contact the child’s doctor. The child may not return for 48hrs and be fever free without fever-reducing medication. The child must have a doctor’s note to return.

SICK CHILD

If, during the day, any of the following symptoms appear, then your child will be separated from the rest of the people in the center. You will be contacted immediately and **MUST** pick up your child within 1 hour of being notified.

Symptoms include:

- Fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Chills
- Loss of Taste or Smell
- Sore Throat
- Muscle Aches
- Rash

While we understand that many of these symptoms can also be related to non-COVID-19 related issues, we must proceed with an abundance of caution during this public health emergency. If your child becomes ill, you must consult your child’s doctor. If a COVID-19 test is ordered your child must remain out until the results return. If the results are negative, the child may return with a doctor’s note and follow our policy symptom guidelines. If the COVID

19 test is positive, the child must remain out for a minimum of 5 days and have a doctor's note.

All other sick policies set forth in the This is The Way Learning Center Parent Handbook will continue to be followed as well in addition to this policy.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

Parents/guardians will not be permitted to enter the facility beyond the designated drop-off and pick-up area. After your child passes his or her health screening, he or she will be escorted to a classroom by a staff member.

HAND/RESPIRATORY HYGIENE

Staff and children will engage in regular handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and will be done:

- Coming in contact with any child,
- When entering a classroom for the first time,
- Before and after eating,
- After sneezing, coughing, or nose-blowing,
- After using the restroom,
- Before handing food,
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated; and
- After using shared equipment like toys, computer keyboards, mouse, etc.

All staff and children will be required to do the following:

- Cover cough and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow,
- Encourage children, when appropriate to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of their elbow,
- Dispose of soiled tissues immediately after use,
- Wash hands after each cough or sneeze.

INTENSIFIED CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

As per our usual operating procedures, all cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting procedures will be in place. Communal spaces will be sanitized between groups (i.e. playground, gross motor room). When children will be vacating a space for an extended period of time (i.e. leaving classroom to go to playground) that space will be disinfected given there will be ample time for the disinfectant to sit and evaporate per the instructions of the disinfecting solution before children are to return to the room.

COVID-19 EXPOSURE NOTIFICATION

In February 2020, COVID-19 was added to the list of Reportable Diseases. TITW is required to report such disease cases of COVID-19 infection immediately to the Connecticut Department of Public Health and to the local department of health in Greenwich.

If a child or staff member who has been present in the program is diagnosed with COVID-19, TITW must notify families and staff about the exposure. Please be advised that we are NOT required to share with you the child or staff member's name but will share with you the date of possible exposure and classroom that may have experienced the exposure.

Parents must immediately notify TITW administration if you become aware that any person with whom your child or yourself has had contact exhibits any of the symptoms listed above (health screening), is advised to self-isolate, quarantine, or has tested positive, or is presumed positive for COVID-19. Further, you must immediately notify TITW administration if anyone from your place of employment is presumed positive or tests positive for COVID-19 whether or not you have had direct contact with that person.



Attestation

I, _____ Michael Kundrat _____, certify that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the provisions listed herein. I acknowledge that failure to act in accordance with the provisions listed herein, or with any other policy or procedure outlined by This is The Way Learning Center, will result in termination of services. I acknowledge that care for my child will be terminated if it is determined that my actions or lack of action unnecessarily exposes another employee, child, or their family member to COVID-19.

I understand that while present in the facility each day my child will be in contact with children, families, and other employees who are also at risk of community exposure. I understand that no list of restrictions, guidelines, or practices will remove 100% of the risk of exposure to COVID-19 as the virus can be transmitted by persons who are asymptomatic and before some people show signs of infection. I understand that I play a crucial role in keeping everyone in the facility safe and reducing the risk of exposure by following the practices outlined herein.

Child's Name:_____N/A_____

Date: _____10/31/22_____

Parent/Guardian's Name & Signature _____Michael G. Kundrat_____

Parent/Guardian's Name & Signature _____Amy E. Kundrat_____