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Health Policies

The health of all children and staff attending Ties Tots is very important. By monitoring each child's health status, teachers will be able to maintain a healthy environment for the entire class. Any child or staff member who is ill may not attend school.

During this re-opening phase and until further notice, temperature screenings and a visual check will be completed upon arrival for all children. In addition, families will be asked screening questions. Should a child arrive in the morning showing symptoms of ill health, the school will be unable to accept him/her. These screenings will also take place for staff on a daily basis. We encourage staff and families to take temperatures before leaving home as well in order to self-determine the ability to pass this screening.

Health Screenings

Screening Children and Staff for Symptoms of COVID-19:

A daily screening checklist will be administered to staff and parents/ caregivers upon either arrival or at home if using an app-based screening tool. The daily check includes:

Fever: Every staff-member and child coming to the site should have their temperature checked each morning either at home or at the facility. If either child or staff-member has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they must remain home.

The following options can be considered for temperature monitoring:

1. Staff can take their own temperature at home and report the value during the daily screening.
2. A designated staff-member wearing a mask and gloves can use a no-contact (temporal) thermometer to take temperatures on all staff and children. The no-contact thermometers should be cleaned with an alcohol wipe (or isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab) between each client. The same wipe can be reused as long as it remains wet. The staff-member can wear the same set of gloves as long as they did not have physical contact with the individual whose temperature they are taking.

Note: oral thermometers will not be used for daily on-site temperature screening.

Symptoms: A designated staff-person will administer the brief daily COVID-like illness symptom checklist to all staff and parents/ caregivers upon arrival. If the child or staff member has symptoms, the child or staff-member must return or remain home.

COVID-like illness is defined as cough, shortness of breath, or any 2 of the following symptoms: fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.

Visual Inspection: Staff will make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical

activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness, and confirm that the child is not experiencing coughing or shortness of breath.

Exposure: Every staff member and parent/ caregiver should be asked if they or their child have been exposed to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days. If the answer is yes, the child or staff member must return home.

Covid-Like Symptoms:

Plan for When Someone Becomes Sick:

- Staff who develop symptoms of COVID-like illness (cough, shortness of breath, or any 2 of the following symptoms: fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell) should immediately be sent home. If they need to be picked up, they should wait in a designated waiting area while waiting.
- If children develop symptoms, they should be brought to a designated waiting area while waiting to be picked up. The staff member waiting with the child should wear a surgical mask and gloves if holding the child.
- If a separate room is not available, designate a cot or crib that can be kept at least 6 feet apart from all other children.
- Information will be given to caregivers explaining why the child is being dismissed and criteria for returning to the facility.

If a child or staff member in a classroom has COVID- like illness, they can return to school if:

1. Initial COVID-19 testing is negative and individual meets the center's normal criteria for return after an illness **OR**
2. A clinician has evaluated the child and documented an alternative diagnosis **OR**

For children who were not tested for COVID: All of the following are true:

1. At least 10 days since the onset of symptoms **AND**
2. Until fever free off anti-fever medications for 3 days **AND**
3. Symptoms are improving.

Note: repeat COVID testing will not be required to return to the center.

Confirmed COVID-19 Illness

If a child or staff member has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19:

- We will call the Philadelphia Department of Public Health at 215-685-6741 for further instructions.
- All children and staff in the same classroom or who have come in close contact with (defined as greater than 15 minutes of interaction less than 6 feet away) quarantine at home for 14 days. Anyone who develops symptoms during that time should contact their healthcare provider to request testing.

In accordance with [PDPH guidance](#), the COVID positive individual should remain home until all of the following are true:

1. At least 10 days since the onset of symptoms **AND**
2. until fever free off anti-fever medications for 3 days **AND**
3. symptoms are improving.

Note: The COVID-19 positive individual does NOT need a repeat COVID test or a doctor's note in order to return to the center.

Cleaning/Disinfecting after a COVID or COVID-like illness:

We plan to:

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as classroom, offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces in your isolation room or area and in the classroom the sick child or staff member was in after the sick child or staff member has gone home.
- Encourage staff and parents to talk to their own and their children's healthcare providers about their individual risk factors for COVID-19 and the risks of working at or attending a childcare facility.
- Ensure facility has updated contact information for all staff and families and the ability to rapidly communicate information.

If we believe there was a COVID-19 case at our childcare center (child or staff), we will call the Philadelphia Department of Public Health at 215-685-6741 for further instructions.

DROP OFF – PICK UP PROCEDURES

In order to provide a secure setting for the children and staff at Ties Tots, we are requesting that all family members maintain social distancing from other families. Child health screenings will take place on an individual family basis. In order to provide for social distancing upon arrival and departure, we are asking families to follow these steps:

Arrival:

- Parent and child(ren) arrive on school property. Please limit the drop off to a single adult and only children who are enrolled in our program. Please have all items for each child in a single bag.
- The parent and child(ren) will wait to enter as a single unit by staying on the guided, spaced path at least 6 feet from other families. Adults and children older than 2 must wear a mask during drop-off and pick-up.
- When a family's turn has arrived, the parent should sanitize their hands. A staff member will be present in protective gear (face mask, face shield and gloves) to ask pre-screening questions of the family and to check the temperature of arriving children with a no-contact thermometer.

- The parent must sign their child(ren) in using the no-contact app.
- Child(ren) will be escorted to his/her classroom by a staff member with their belongings. The parent will exit the building.
- Car seats and strollers will not be stored on site until further notice, as surfaces may be contaminated.

*We encourage families to have the same parent or designated person drop off and pick up the child every day.

**If you arrive and do not immediately see a staff member, please ring the doorbell to alert the staff of your arrival and sanitize your hands.

Departure:

- Parents should ring the doorbell to alert staff of their arrival. The staff will respond and bring the child(ren), with their daily belongings to the front door.
- Parents should wait on the guided, spaced path at least 6 feet from other families.
- Parents must sign out their child(ren) using the no-contact app.
- All parents must wear masks at pick-up and drop-off.
- Parents will be given updates on their children electronically or by phone to limit direct contact with parents as much as possible.

*Parents should expect arrival and departure routines to take longer especially during peak times. We appreciate your patience.

** All nonessential visitors and volunteers will be restricted until further notice.

Promoting Social Distancing:

- All nonessential visitors and volunteers will be restricted until further notice.
- As much as possible, the same teachers will be with the same children.
- Break and lunch hours for staff will be staggered in order to minimize interactions.
- Signs will be posted alerting employees to maintain distance and avoid eating near or across from each other.

Food Safety Procedures:

- We will plate each child's meal so that multiple children are not using the same serving utensils.
- Children may bring food from home.
- Staff will ensure children wash hands prior to and immediately after eating.
- Staff will wash their hands before preparing food and after helping children to eat.
- Staff will wear gloves while preparing food/ bottles and feeding children or giving them bottles.

Cleaning and Disinfection Efforts:

We will:

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily. This includes tables, chairs, doorknobs, light switches, remote controls, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, strollers, and sinks.
- Wipe off any playground equipment or indoor play space equipment between usage by different classrooms of children.
- Disinfect all toys at least daily.
- Set aside all mouthed toys that need to be cleaned in a container marked “soiled toys”; we will disinfect those toys by someone wearing gloves using EPA-approved disinfectant before the next use. Steps for disinfecting found in the [CDC guidance](#).
- Launder all plush toys.
- Use bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) that can be washed. We will keep each child’s bedding separate. Cots and mats will be labeled for each child. Bedding that touches a child’s skin will be cleaned at least weekly or before use by another child.
- Use [cleaning products](#) that are EPA-approved for use against COVID-19. All cleaning products securely and out of the reach of children.
- Keep each child’s belongings separated and in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies, or areas and taken home each day and cleaned, if possible.

Hand Hygiene:

Hand hygiene will be practiced at the following times: (*Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds*)

- Entry to the facility at handwashing stations or using hand sanitizer and after breaks.
- Before and after eating or assisting children with meals and bottles.
- Before and after preparing food, bottles, and drinks.
- Before and after medication administration.
- Before and after diapering.
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom.
- After coughing, sneezing, or blowing their nose.
- After playing outdoors.
- After coming in contact with bodily fluids.
- After handling garbage.
- Perform hand hygiene by.

Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

For the duration of the pandemic period, all staff will be asked to wear face masks covering the nose and mouth whenever in facility except during meals or outdoor break time. If using a disposable mask, a new mask should be used each day. If using a cloth mask, it should be laundered every day. Accommodations for staff face coverings may be made to address a specific staff need. Infant/Toddler staff will be asked to wear disposable gowns over their clothing. If contaminated by a bodily fluid, the staff member will change their gown.

Note: masks should not be placed on:

- Babies and children younger than 2 years old.
- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.
- Children during naptime.

Children: We request that parents provide and encourage the use of masks for their children ages 2 and above, per the guidance from the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Guidance will be provided on how families can encourage the safe use of masks in young children. Due to the young ages we serve, we acknowledge that children may not be able to wear a mask for the duration of the day. Please send a second mask for each child in case of contamination.

Parents are required to wear masks at pick-up and drop-off.