

CHILD ILLNESS POLICY

Due to the increased health risks to staff and children during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Kids Co. revised our child illness policy. The goal of these updates is to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and have clear expectations and guidelines in place if there is an exposure in our child care community. **We ask that families exercise an abundance of caution and keep your child(ren) home if your child is not feeling well.**

ILLNESS, SYMPTOMS, AND RETURNING TO PROGRAM:

Children must remain home and will not be permitted in program if they meet any of the conditions below:

- They have a fever of 100.4 or are showing 2 or more [signs or symptoms of COVID-19](#) in the last 72 hours
 - Examples: A fever of 100°F or more, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, congestions, runny nose, chills, new loss of taste or smell, muscle or body aches, sore throat, a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or other sign of a new illness unrelated to preexisting conditions
- Anyone in their household has a fever of 100.4 or is showing 2 or more [signs of COVID-19](#)
- They have been in close contact* with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- They have had any medication to reduce fever before coming to program
- They have had a positive COVID-19 test for active virus in the past 10 days
- They have been told by public health or a medical professional to self-monitor, self-isolate, or self-quarantine because of a concern about COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days
- Are at [high risk](#) due to certain health conditions
- Child has travelled and is recommended to quarantine by local, state, or [federal government based on their travel location in the last 14 days](#)
- If they have shown the following symptoms in the last 24 hours
 - Rash, any not associated with heat or allergic reactions to medicine.
 - Drainage from the eye, redness of eyelid lining, swelling and discharge of pus.
 - Appearance/behavior, unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused, irritable.
 - Head lice, nits or scabies.

Returning to a child care facility after symptoms of COVID-19:

- If a healthcare provider recommends a different length of time a child must remain away from program, families must follow whichever length of time is longest (see below).
- A staff member or child who has a **confirmed case COVID-19** can return to the child care facility when:
 - If **NOT** tested or tested positive:
 - At least 1 day (24 hours) have passed since recovery – defined as no fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory signs like cough and shortness of breath;
 - AND**
 - At least **10 days** have passed since signs first showed up.
 - AND**
 - Other symptoms have improved
 - If **tested negative**:
 - They must stay home until 72 hours after the fever resolves and symptoms improve.

Returning to program after suspected close contact* or actual close contact* to someone with COVID-19:

- If a person believes they have had close contact* to someone with COVID-19, but they are not sick, they should watch their health for COVID-19 symptoms. This should last for 14 days after the last day they were in close contact* with the person sick with COVID-19. Furthermore, they should not go to work, child care, school, or public places for 14 days. If a person develops symptoms of

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COVID-19 during their quarantine, they should seek testing for COVID-19. If they test positive for COVID-19, follow the guidance listed above. Consider testing at day 10 even if no symptoms are present. However, a negative test after exposure does not shorten the 14 day quarantine period

*Close contact includes being within 3 feet of a suspected or confirmed case for 15 minutes or longer (minutes do not have to be consecutive). Close contact also happens if someone with COVID-19 coughs on you, kisses you, shares utensils with you, or you have contact with their body fluids.

ILLNESS DURING PROGRAM:

If a child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness while at the center, they will be isolated from the rest of the group until they are picked up. Kids Co. requires students with symptoms of illness to be **picked up within 45 minutes** of the family being notified. Please ensure that there is someone available to pick your child up within the 45 minute time frame in an effort to avoid jeopardizing the health of the child, or other children and staff in the center. Inability to have your child picked up within the 45 minute time frame may result in removal from the program. Parents/Guardians must also be available to pick up their child within the 45 minute timeframe if Kids Co. must unexpectedly or temporarily close a location.

COMMUNICATING ABSENCES AND HEALTH TO KIDS CO.

If your child is going to be absent from Kids Co. **for any reason**, please contact Kids Co. as soon as possible. This will prevent removing staff from program to search for, and locate your child. Families may be charged a **\$10 locator fee** for failing to notify Kids Co. of your child's absence.

We appreciate your support and understanding surrounding Kids Co. illness policies. We ask that families openly and honestly communicate with Kids Co. in regards to their child(ren) and family health. We want to work together as a community to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases and/or illnesses. **If at any point during care a child in program exhibits symptoms or has been exposed to someone who has tested positive to COVID-19, families must notify us immediately.** Kids Co. is required by Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to track student absences from program, including absences due to illness, COVID-19, or other communicable diseases.

DAILY HEALTH SCREENINGS

Upon arrival, kids and staff will undergo a daily health check that includes a temperature check and answering a few health questions. Any child or staff who does not pass the daily health check will not be permitted in program and will need to follow specific illness protocols based on their symptoms. **We ask that families check temperatures at home before going to school or coming to program.** If your child has a temperature or other COVID-19 symptoms they **must** remain home. The degree and frequency of daily health checks may change as advised by King County Public Health, WA Dept. of Health, DCYF, and the CDC.

PROGRAM CLOSURE DUE TO ILLNESS OR EXPOSURE:

In the event that Kids Co. is informed of an exposure to COVID-19, we will close the program in accordance with Public Health and Department of Health. **All families must come and pick up their children within 45 minutes of being notified of program closure.** Length of closure time will be determined based on Public Health recommendations. Kids Co. will notify all families at that center if their child has been exposed to COVID-19 at a Kids Co. facility and communicate any recommendations from Public Health. If Kids Co. closes a program for any length of time due to COVID-19, tuition will not be refunded which is in accordance with Kids Co. policy. Kids Co. will follow the most recent WA Department of Health, CDC, and King County Public Health Updates. **All COVID-19 guidelines, policies and procedures are subject to change without notice.**