

Dear Columbia Children's Center Families,

March 12, 2020

I wanted to open communication regarding Covid-19. As part of our process during this Covid-19 situation, we continue to review information from the CDC and the Santa Barbara County Health Department and follow their guidelines and recommendations diligently.

Our plan to keep the illness away, builds on our everyday practices of encouraging hand hygiene, monitoring absenteeism, and communicating routinely with local and regional experts.

We have not received any notification that there has been exposures or confirmed cases in our attendance boundaries, therefore, we are not currently considered at a high risk of exposure by the CDC. However, we want to keep you informed and reassure you that in the abundance of caution we are following best practices.

Our staff takes enormous pride in all the work they do to keep their students healthy and safe. Here's what we are doing to continue following the guidelines from the Santa Barbara Public Health Department and the CDC:

- Continuing to model and prompt respiratory hygiene in the classroom: using tissues or a bended elbow to catch coughs and sneezes.
- Making sure students wash hands frequently and properly, then drying their hands thoroughly with a paper towel.
- If handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer will be offered instead.
- Helping to gently redirect children away from touching their face (eyes, nose, and mouth).
- Washing and sanitizing surfaces during the school day as well as after school.
- Removing mouthed toys and sanitizing them after school.

Our teachers are provided with disinfecting spray so that this process occurs throughout the day.

We use disinfectant wipes and/or spray to clean our door knobs and high touch areas such as the gate latches throughout the day.

Our nightly custodial crew will continue to prioritize the daily disinfecting of tabletops, touch points and bathrooms using registered EPA approved disinfectants.

Here's what we need from you:

- Please use hand sanitizer after checking in and before entering our center.
- Upon arriving at CCC each day, please assist your child with proper handwashing prior to escorting them to their teacher using sinks located in the classrooms. Note: This means soap and running water for 20+ seconds (sing Happy Birthday twice), then drying hands thoroughly with a paper towel.

- If your child is absent *for any reason*, please send a message on Brightwheel to inform us of the reason of absence
- Review our illness policy (in the parent handbook:
C:\Users\Staff\AppData\Local\Temp\parenthandbook8.18-5.pdf .
- Review CDC website to review the symptoms for COVID-19:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html> .
- If your child is unwell or is unable to keep their coughs/sneezes contained to tissues/their elbow, we urge you to keep them home and away from anyone considered at risk.
- At the end of the day, consider handwashing again.
- Make backup childcare plans in the rare case CCC needs to close. This is currently a very unlikely scenario.

If your child appears to have any cold/flu-like symptoms during the school day:

- As soon as we notice your child's behavior is "off" you will be sent a courtesy heads-up. *This is to allow you time to make arrangements if your child does turn out to be too sick to stay at school.*
- Their temperature will be checked at 15 minute intervals.
- If temperature readings are at/above 100.8 degrees, you will be called & your child must be picked up as soon as possible. Note: In the event we need to send your child home due to illness you or someone on your approved pick up needs to be here promptly (within 30 minutes).
- Children must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication and they must be able to contain their coughs/sneezes safely.

Lisa and I will continue to meet, monitor the situation, and communicate all relevant information.

As always, we appreciate our CCC Family support and cooperation. You can assist us by remaining vigilant but sensible in your approach to dealing with this health concern. As you know, we are the greatest influence on our children's reactions to these types of events.

Be well, stay safe and wash your hands. 😊

Sincerely,

Cortney