



## KenCrest Child Care Facility COVID 19 Health and Safety Plan Template

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Each child care facility must create a COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan Which will serve as the guidelines for the facility's COVID-19 child care activities. As with all emergencies plans, the COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan developed for each child care facility should be tailored to the unique needs of each facility and should be created in consultation of guidance and policy issued by Office-of-Child Care and Department of Early Learning (OCDEL), Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), and comply with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Given the dynamic nature of the pandemic, each plan should incorporate enough flexibility to adapt to changing conditions. A child care facility's COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan should be shared with all families and staff and posted in a conspicuous area. Child care facilities should also consider whether the adoption of a new policy or the modification of an existing policy is necessary to effectively implement the COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan.

### COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan Summary:

The Corona Virus (COVID-19) is still active in our community. COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. As we prepare to begin the school year in the KenCrest Early Learning program, we have taken many steps to prepare our environment while also supporting children, families and staff in as safe a way as possible, especially from the highly contagious Delta variant. We have several strategies to:

- **Manage** the number of contacts for children and staff (consistent teachers and groups, no outside visitors)
- **Minimize** “contact intensity” (how long people are together close to each other)
- **Maximize** mitigation (vaccination, distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, cleaning)

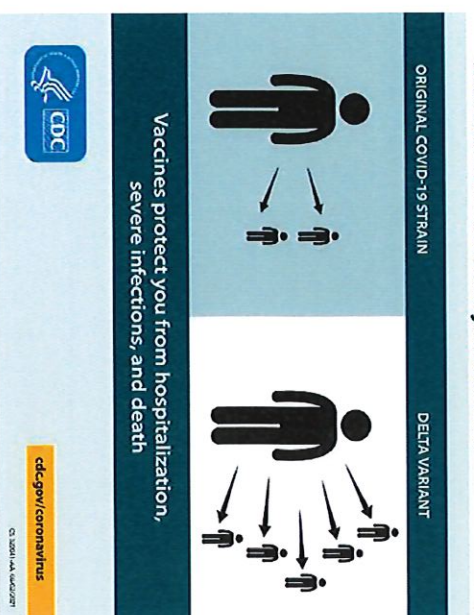
Masks: All adults (staff, families and visitors) are required to wear a mask when on property in order to protect the unvaccinated children.

**Plan Date: June 5, 2020; updated August 6, 2021**

Primary Prevention Strategies for the transmission of COVID based on CDC guidance (2021) for school re-opening:

- [Promoting vaccination](#)
- [Consistent and correct mask use](#)
- [Physical distancing and cohorting](#)
- [Ventilation](#)
- [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#)
- [Staying home when sick and getting tested](#)
- [Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine](#)
- [Cleaning and disinfecting](#)

**The Delta variant is more contagious than previous strains—it may cause more than 2x as many infections**



The Delta variant causes more infections and spreads faster than early forms of SARS-CoV-2

**The Delta variant is more contagious:** The Delta variant is highly contagious, more than 2x as contagious as previous variants.

**Some data suggest the Delta variant might cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated persons.** In two different studies from Canada and Scotland, patients infected with the Delta variant were more likely to be hospitalized than patients infected with Alpha or the original virus strains.



- **Unvaccinated people remain the greatest concern:** Although breakthrough infections happen much less often than infections in unvaccinated people, individuals infected with the Delta variant, including fully vaccinated people with symptomatic breakthrough infections, can transmit it to others. CDC is continuing to assess data on whether fully vaccinated people with asymptomatic breakthrough infections can transmit. However, the greatest risk of transmission is among unvaccinated people who are much more likely to contract, and therefore transmit the virus.
- **Children are not yet able to be vaccinated and we have a responsibility to protect them.**
- **Vaccines are playing a crucial role in limiting spread of the virus and minimizing severe disease.** Although vaccines are highly effective, they are not perfect and there will be vaccine breakthrough infections.
- **Fully vaccinated people with Delta variant breakthrough infections can spread the virus to others. However, vaccinated people appear to be infectious for a shorter period:** Previous variants typically produced less virus in the body of infected fully vaccinated people (breakthrough infections) than in unvaccinated people. In contrast, the Delta variant seems to produce the same high amount of virus in both unvaccinated and fully vaccinated people. However, like other variants, the amount of virus produced by Delta breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated people also goes down faster than infections in unvaccinated people. This means fully vaccinated people are likely infectious for less time than unvaccinated people.

## Face Masks

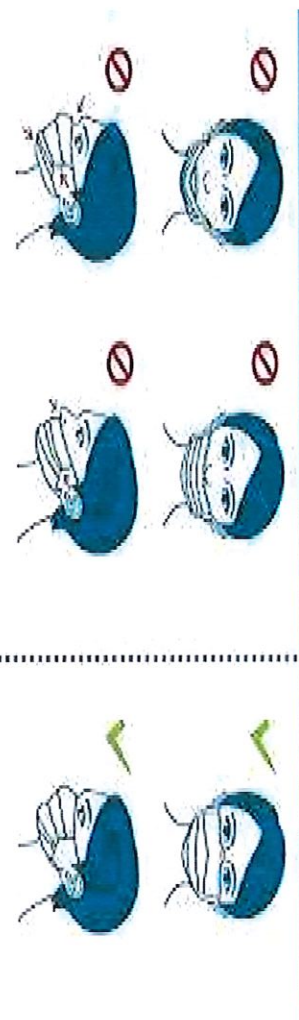
**WHY: "My mask protects you, your mask protects me."** The virus can be spread between people interacting in close proximity - examples, speaking, singing, eating or sneezing. You could spread COVID - 19 to others even if you do not feel sick or have symptoms. Studies have shown that vaccinated staff may carry the virus without symptoms

All staff in Early Learning Programs are expected to wear masks while at work. In order to protect children who are not vaccinated, staff are required to wear masks while at work indoors, outdoors, regardless of whether children are nearby. You will not be allowed to enter or stay without a mask. You are expected to wear your mask when you are outside with children who are not vaccinated.

As a community we are interdependent on each other. Staff are expected to cue and direct peers who have lost track of their mask to "Mask up". Staying safe is everyone's business.

### How to Properly Wear Face Mask

#### How to wear a face mask correctly



#### Cloth face coverings should—

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

- Masks should cover your mouth and nose

- To remove the mask: remove it from behind, do not touch the front of mask.

- The wearer should immediately wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after removing/replacing the mask.



**Children and Masks:** Children over the age of 2 who are able to remove a face covering without assistance, are required to wear masks while in school. We recognize that getting younger children to be comfortable wearing face coverings and to keep them on may take some time and practice. Teachers will be supporting children to learn about masks, and practice wearing them so that when they go out in public where masks are required, they have skills to participate. Teachers have learned to use cues “Mask Up” with children and encouraging them to support peers who might lose track of their mask with this phrase. We are asking families to send in a mask that their child is comfortable with so we can use that at different times of the day. Please write your child’s name on the brown bag the mask comes to school in, as well as on the mask in permanent marker.

## **Facilities Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilation**

### **CLASSROOM CLEANING**

All classrooms must follow a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting TOYS, CLASSROOMS, BATHROOMS, GENERAL AREAS AND PLAYGROUNDS. All cleaning products should be used according to the directions on the product label. The CDC has recommended a once per day disinfecting cleaning in classrooms that we will schedule during outside play time. For safe effective products, refer to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)’s product guide at [epa.gov](http://epa.gov).

#### **Clean and sanitize toys:**

- Toys that children have placed in their mouths and all other toys that need to be cleaned should be set aside, preferably in labeled and closed containers until they are cleaned.
- Toys should be cleaned with water and soap, rinsed, sanitized with EPA registered disinfectant, rinse again and air dry.

#### **Clean and sanitize Classroom:**

Classrooms must be kept clean before, during and after each school day. Keeping the classroom clean and germ free as much as possible should be everyone’s responsibility and priority.

The following objects and surfaces should be routinely cleaned and disinfected as frequently as possible using EPA registered products:

1. Clean and disinfect all tables and chairs each morning before use.
2. If possible, wipe tables and chair tops after every transitional activity
3. If possible adjust and allow natural air circulation in the classroom as much as possible.
4. The following objects and surfaces should be cleaned as frequently as possible:  
Doorknobs, light switches, sink handles, counter tops, nap pads, iPad.

#### **Clean and Disinfect Bathrooms:**

- Adult and children bathrooms should be cleaned and disinfected as frequently as possible by using soap and water to clean as needed and disinfect by using EPA registered products.

#### **VENTILATION:**

Ventilation is one component of maintaining healthy environments, and is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy for schools and childcare programs. We have researched several sources (CDC, City of Philadelphia) to develop the following interventions.

- 1. Bring in as much outdoor air as possible.**
  - Where we can, staff will safely open windows for ventilation.
- 2. Ensure Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) settings are maximizing ventilation.**
  - We have worked with HVAC Vendors on turning up the blower fans where possible to increase air flow and fresh air intake.
  - Program Coordinators have worked with Facilities to understand when HVAC systems should be set to fan mode to keep air flow constant.
- 3. Filter and/or clean the air in your building**
  - We have implemented a CDC recommended design utilizing box fans with HEPA/MERV rated filters to provide increased air filtration and also air circulation in classrooms.
- 4. Use exhaust fans in restrooms**
  - Bathrooms with exhaust fans should be turned on when restroom is in use.

## Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols

*"Maintaining physical distance is often not feasible in an ECE setting, especially during certain activities (e.g., diapering, feeding, holding/comforting, etc.) and among younger children in general. When it is not possible to maintain physical distance in ECE settings, it is especially important to layer multiple prevention strategies, such as cohorting, masking indoors, improved ventilation, handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk. Mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is particularly important when physical distance cannot be maintained. A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between adults who are not fully vaccinated." CDC guidance 2021*

### **PODS:**

Maintaining pods allow us to minimize contact and is used as a physical distancing strategy to support times when children cannot be three feet apart. Keeping children with their same peer group throughout the day, limits exposure for children. Siblings and children who live together will be enrolled in the same classroom to minimize any contacts or spread.

### **MEAL TIMES:**

For meals that are typically served family-style, it is recommended that plated meals be served. We have worked with BTC to have all meals pre-plated, and they will arrive in individual servings. Teachers are encouraged to use table top dividers across a table to add a barrier between children, whenever possible.

### **NAPPING:**

At nap time, ensure that children's naptime mats (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 6 feet apart. Arrange placement of children head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread. Bedding should be sent home weekly to be washed and returned on Monday. IF a site has a washer on property, it is acceptable to wash the bedding on site.

### **BREAKS AND GATHERINGS:**

Staff meetings will be held in a space large enough to allow for distancing. Staff break times will be set and must be adhered to. In order to minimize exposure we will identify allowable break areas, and staff will eat independently, by themselves or in the same space more than 6 feet apart.



## **CLASSROOM DESIGN:**

It is recommended that teachers consider using rug samples, or individual place identifiers, at spaced intervals in order to support distancing of 3 feet when possible in the classroom (for example morning message).

Teachers are encouraged to use table top dividers across a table to add a barrier between children, whenever possible, especially if a child is not able to keep their mask on. In order to space children out, teachers will be using all the spaces and table tops in the classroom.

Keep each child's belongings separated and in individually labeled storage containers or bags. Ensure adequate supplies to ensure children have materials that they need, when possible.

Children will continue to send in an extra set of clothes for any accidents. These clothes need to be kept separate from each other. Clothes should be exchanged when they are soiled and at change of weather.

## **Monitoring Children and Staff Health**

### **STAFF SELF SCREENING:**

Staff are expected to take their temperature at home daily before reporting to work. In addition, staff who are not feeling well are encouraged to contact their supervisor and stay home to limit the spread of any virus.

### **NEED TO REPORT ANY COVID+ EXPOURE:**

Staff are required to report ANY COVID exposure to their supervisor immediately. Supervisors will work with our agency nurse supports to review if quarantine is required.

### **TOOTHBRUSHING:**

The CDC has discouraged sharing of items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect. Tooth brushing in a group setting would be a higher risk opportunity for the virus to spread. As a result, tooth brushing in classrooms at school is discontinued. Toothbrushes should be shared with families to maintain this practice at home.



## Other Consideration for Children and Staff

### OUTSIDE PLAY TIME:

The CDC and Philadelphia Department of Health advise that unvaccinated people, including children, should continue to wear masks when playing outside. Outside play and learning is recommended for all children due to the high ventilation of being outside. Every classroom will have a schedule for their individual classrooms outside play and learning time. This will require teachers to keep to their schedule in order to allow every group time outside. Teachers are encouraged to plan materials to take out with them to maximize the learning when outside. We will have a schedule for the safety ambassador to sanitize the area after each classroom has used it.

### VIRTUAL FAMILY MEETINGS:

Meetings with families will be virtual for the Fall, 2021. We are waiting for clarification before deciding if we will be able to implement Home Visits in the spring of 2022.

### VISITOR GUIDELINES:

In accordance with the CDC, State and governing agencies regarding COVID-19 guidelines, we have made revisions to our Visitor Policy. We are enacting an updated visitor policy for Kencrest Early Learning Centers in order to protect our students and families from the spread of COVID-19. Any visitor inside the program MUST have a scheduled appointment time to minimize crowds and crossing of visitors. All visitors must sign in for contact tracing, as well as complete a screening interview. Restriction guidelines will be updated as information changes.

**Everyone** entering our facilities is required to wear a mask or face covering to protect unvaccinated children. Failure to do so will result in removal from the site.

### PICK-UP and DROP OFF:

Pick up and drop off procedures have been adjusted, and include daily screening of children at drop off. See attached

# COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan Affirmation Statement

The Nursing/Health Director at KenCrest reviewed and approved the Child Care facility Health and Safety Plan updated: **8/2/2021**.

The plan was approved

YES

NO

Affirmed on: 8 / 17 / 2021

By:



Executive Director

Signature

MELANIE BRENNAN

Site Director

Signature