

Health & Safety Protocol for COVID-19

A Quick Note

We know you and your kids are tired, restless, and maybe even anxious. We have no idea how long this will last. But we do know that childcare is still needed. The following is our health protocol while the pandemic persists, all based off local and national guidelines.

Take your time reading it. If you've any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch via text, email, or a phone call—we are reachable any time, 24/7.

In addition to keeping an eye on what PUSD, DUSD, and SRVUSD are doing, we consulted these other resources in devising the protocol:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

Alameda County Public Health Department:

<http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/resources-organizations/childcare-schools-colleges.aspx>

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency:

<https://www.alamedaca.gov/files/assets/public/alameda-covid-alerts-page-files/acphd-covid-19-summer-camp-guidance.pdf>

Limited Enrollment

Our normal capacity has been significantly reduced to minimize risk. On any given day, there will be no more than 12 students total.

Stay home if you think you have been exposed

Each morning, staff will conduct a temperature and symptom screening on each other and on every child. This applies to every person who sets foot inside the center. As of now, staff consists of two full-time adults who already live together and practice social distancing (they are their own social bubble). There are no rotating staff members; again, this is to minimize risk.

We respectfully request children to stay home if they or a member of their immediate social bubble tests positive for COVID-19 or develop any symptoms. Our daily health screening, which includes contact-free temperature checks and a symptom questionnaire, is our first line of defense. Parents must answer truthfully for the safety of all other children and their families.

We encourage parents to decide between themselves on who should be the one to do pick-up and drop-off. No matter who, it should always be the same person because switching parents and relatives introduces a new element of risk.

If need be, you may contact us when you arrive so staff may meet you at your car for pick up. The same works for drop off, although a temperature and symptom screening will still be conducted before you can leave your child with us.

Wash your hands and cover your mouth (or do it outside)

Hands must be washed upon entering the facility, while at the facility, and upon leaving the facility. Please spend time teaching your children the proper way to wash their hands; reinforce handwashing techniques like scrubbing in between fingernails and for at least 20 seconds using warm water and effective soap (at least 70% alcohol). Our facility is fully stocked with hand soap, hand sanitizers, disinfecting products, gloves, masks, toilet paper, and other cleaning solutions—so there is no need to worry about us running out.

Lastly, all staff and children must cover their coughs, sneezes, yawns, etc. by expelling into the crook of their arm or doing so outside the center. This must be immediately followed up with hand washing.

Wear a mask and gloves to protect others and yourself

Masks and gloves are worn by all staff members and worn in a way for maximum efficacy (covering both the nose and mouth). A new disposable mask is worn every day, or if it is a reusable mask, it is washed daily.

Masks are recommended for all children as well. While the CDC states that those under 12 do not need to wear one, we still encourage them to bring their own and wear one for the duration of the day. If your child has asthma or other respiratory symptoms, PLEASE stay home.

Yes, your kids can make friends—but only while socially distanced

We are enforcing a maximum limit of four children per classroom. If they are siblings who live together or close friends who are already socially familiar, they will share a room. Otherwise, we do not allow children to nomadically travel around different classrooms.

Children must bring their own lunch and snacks while the pandemic persists. During lunch, they will be seated so that they are not directly facing anyone in the classroom. Under no circumstances can lunch or snacks be shared between children and their friends.

Class time occurs in a similar fashion. Each child is seated separately with their own laptop provided by us and disinfected between every use. This includes thorough disinfecting of not just the laptop itself, but also the seat and table areas.

Special Equipment, Protocols, and Restrictions

- Open Door policy for ventilation; front door and rear doors will stay open and each classroom will be stocked with an air purifier
- Hygiene stations will be placed around the facility as well.
- Staff will follow a cleaning schedule that disinfects every surface area and object.
- Modified table and seating arrangements is the new norm.
- Distanced seating if transportation is needed for outdoor trips; we have enough vehicles that allow us to spread the total headcount across vehicles
- Parents should not congregate in the entryway or front desk
- Communal spaces kept as empty as possible
- Screening Upon Arrival (Contact-less temperature, symptom check, etc.)
- Constant screening of symptoms throughout the day

We will not try to cover anything up. If something happens, you will know ASAP.

We believe in transparency and integrity. While we do our best to minimize risk, there is still a chance for potential exposure. If this happens, we will promptly notify the parents of all children that were at the facility. We do not believe in “hiding” potential exposures as doing so would not reflect how we approach our job as childcare providers.

If a potential exposure comes to light, parents will receive an email blast from us explaining the situation. We will deal only in facts and provide you with credible resources to links for next steps. We are NOT a medical facility and do not have the expertise to advise you on what to do or provide an explanation of what kind of risk there is; for that, we kindly ask you get in touch with your healthcare provider instead.

If your child or someone they live with is potentially exposed or tested positive, we respectfully ask you to stay home for the duration of the recommended amount of days of self-quarantine. To return to the center, they must pass the self-quarantine period with at least 3 consecutive days of no fever, 3 consecutive days of improving symptoms, and clearance from your medical provider.

During the quarantine period, if your child is able or still wants to take part in our online classes, they are more than welcome to do so. Getting through this with the support of friends and staff will make it that much more manageable 😊