

**PACT Head Start & Early Head Start Center-Based
COVID-19 Procedures for Families & Children
7/25/22**

Parents & Guardians: Please notify PACT immediately if someone in your home or someone you or your child has been in close contact with has tested positive for COVID-19.

If you or your child has even ONE symptom below, PLEASE do not come into our center or load our bus. Children will need to be cleared by a health professional that they are COVID free or have a negative test from a test site or doctor office to return if they have any of the following symptoms.

- Chills or shaking, cough, shortness of breath, nausea, fatigue, congestion, sore throat, headache, muscle ache or pain, vomiting, diarrhea, loss off taste or smell, abdominal pain, runny nose (greenish in color), fever of 100.4 or above (fever does not need to be cleared by doctor if last less than 3 days. Child may return to class if they have been fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.)

Children with COVID:

- Since we cannot expect a child to wear a mask the whole time they are in our care, they will be asked to isolate for 10 days and may return to class if symptoms have improved and have not had a fever for the past 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication.
- The site supervisor, teacher, or family advocate will be contacting you for dates symptoms started and test date. This will help us to ensure that we do not allow someone to come back too early and possibly infect others. It also helps us to determine if your child exposed others at the center.

Children exposed to COVID:

- Since we cannot expect a child to wear a mask the whole time they are in our care, they will be asked to quarantine for 10 days and may return on day 11 if they do not have symptoms. If COVID is within the household, quarantine time may be extended.
- Your child should be tested right away if they get symptoms.
- Your child should get tested on day 5 of exposure if they do not have symptoms (*Exception if they had COVID in the past 90 days and do not get symptoms for 10 days they do not need to test.)

PACT will be following COVID-19 guidance from the CDC, DCFS licensing, and Illinois Department of Public Health.

Use of Masks:

- In conjunction with the updated COVID-19 Community Levels, the CDC, DCFS, & IDPH recommends that people should wear masks depending on the level of COVID-19 in their community. Prevention measures will be dialed up when our communities are experiencing more severe disease and dialed down when things are more stable. PACT staff will keep you informed if a mask is needed to enter our facilities and if children over the age of 2 years are expected to wear them in class. Mask will be made available to all.
- If you or your child feel more secure wearing masks while in our facilities during low community spread times, please feel free to wear one. If you prefer your child to wear a mask during class, at all times, please speak to your child's teacher.

At Home Test:

- PACT will not accept an at home COVID test for staff, children, or volunteers. You or your child will need to get tested at your doctor or test site.
- If an at home test was taken and it is positive, we will treat it as a positive test until test from doctor or test site can be obtained.

PACT Volunteers:

- All volunteers, including parent volunteers cannot volunteer in our classrooms unless they show proof of an up to date COVID vaccine.
- Please ask your child's teacher how you can donate time other than classroom time.

Stop the Spread of COVID:

- **Stay home when sick or if you have symptoms**
- **Keep your child home if they are sick or have symptoms**
- **Get tested**
- **Wash hands often**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes**
- **Wear a mask**
- **Clean and disinfect commonly touch surfaces regularly**

We appreciate your cooperation and understand this has been another rough year with the uncertainty of the pandemic. We were all hoping it would be over by now! Please understand that we are doing the best we can to protect the health and safety of PACT children and families as well as staff. Please feel free to reach out to your center Site Supervisor if you have any questions or concerns.