

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

Parents & Guardians: Please notify PACT Home Based Teacher 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 contact your PACT Home Based Teacher.

- Chills or shaking, cough, shortness of breath, nausea, fatigue, congestion, sore throat, headache, muscle ache or pain, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of 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.)

Child or household member with COVID:

- Since we cannot expect you or your child to wear a mask the whole time during our home visits, you will be asked to isolate from PACT staff for 10 days from onset of symptoms or COVID test if no symptoms and may return to regular home visits if symptoms have improved and have not had a fever for the past 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication.
- Your Home Based Teacher will be contacting you for dates symptoms started and test date. This will help us to ensure that we do not allow staff to come back too early and possibly infect her/him.

Child or household member exposed to COVID:

- Since we cannot expect you or your child to wear a mask the whole time during our home visits, you will be asked to quarantine from PACT staff for 10 days from exposure and may return to regular home visits on day 11 if you or your child do not have symptoms. If COVID is within the household, quarantine time may be extended.
- You or your child should be tested right away if symptoms occur.
- According to the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health, a person 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 recommended during home visits or socializations, including for children over the age of 2 years.
- PACT staff will be wearing one during these times and masks will be made available to all.
- If you or your child feel more secure wearing masks during all home visits and socializations, please feel free to wear one.

Stop the Spread of COVID:

- **Call your Home Based Teacher if you or your child have symptoms**
- **Stay home when you or your child are sick or if you 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.