

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER

### **Background**

The Salvation Army's Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) is requesting consideration to reopen its program. Governor Wolf has communicated that as a county moves to the yellow phase, childcare providers are permitted to reopen without a waiver. The ECEC was recertified by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services in March of 2020. This document contains the reopening plans we will have in place to protect staff, children, and their families from the spread of COVID-19. It would be our hope to reopen the Kroc Center's ECEC by June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Licensed Child Care Providers typically look to the Department of Health or Department of Human Services to issue guidance specific to Pennsylvania Child Care. The Office of Child Development and Early Learning during this pandemic has recommended child care providers be guided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) when planning to reopen in the yellow phase. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has, according to OCDEL, the most current and updated information relating to COVID-19. This CDC link has the most current guidance from the CDC [Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open](#) . We also reference the following training completed and used to inform our reopening plans. The *Child Care During COVID-19 and Reopening Child Care* with OCDEL Deputy Secretary, Tracey Campanini and Bureau of Certification Director, Tanya Vasquez [Recording May 6, 2020](#) (YouTube) / [Slide Deck](#) (PDF) and The Pennsylvania Key developed webcasts developed to support group child care centers with understanding of the CDC guidance *Group Child Care Centers That Remain Open from PA's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)* [WEBINAR from Wednesday, April 29, 2020](#) (YouTube) / [Slide Deck](#) (PDF) .

The ECEC's reopening plans address the plans set to keep the child care spaces safe, properly monitor staff and children of symptoms, exposure, and transmission of COVID-19.

1. Modify arrival and departure procedures
2. Implement screening procedures upon arrival
3. Implement social distancing strategies
4. Intensify facility cleaning and disinfection efforts
5. Caring for Infants and Toddlers
6. Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior
7. Food Preparation and Meal Service
8. Vulnerable/ High Risk Groups
9. Face Covering for Staff and Children over 2 years
10. Everyday preventive actions
11. Staff Training
12. Family Orientation Session
13. Covid 19 Waivers

### **Arrival and Departure**

- Initially, the hours of operation will be shortened to 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.
- Parents will not be permitted into the ECEC. All interaction with teachers will be handled in the lobby of the Kroc Center, email or phone.

- Arrival and drop off times of students will be staggered.
- Child's temperature will be checked at curbside (outside of the facility) from their vehicle. Once cleared, the family may proceed inside to drop off in lobby outside of the ECEC
- A staff member will greet children at the lobby as they arrive, help them wash their hands, and walk them to their classroom.
- Sign-in and out sheets will be completed at curbside by staff.
- Infants may be transported in their car seats and will have their hands washed in their classroom by staff.
- At the end of the day, children will be escorted out of their class to meet their parent in the Kroc Center lobby.

### **Screening Procedures upon Arrival**

- Children will be screened upon arrival before entering the ECEC using both an ear thermometer with disposable filters and a visual inspection of the child. Visual inspection will consist of looking for signs of illness, including flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), cough, fatigue, or extreme fussiness. (See Covid 19 Screening Tool)
- Daily temperature and signs of illness will be performed for each child and recorded.
- Protective methods will incorporate PPE, social distancing (maintaining a distance of 6 feet from others,) and a physical barrier to eliminate or minimize exposures due to close contact to a child who have symptoms during screening.
- A child with a 100.4<sup>0</sup> (38.0<sup>0</sup>C) temperature or above or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the program. (See Child Symptom Notes/ Attendance and Symptom Record)
- Parents will be informed prior not to bring child to the ECEC if s/he has signs or symptoms of fever (a temperature of 100.4 or more), cough, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, headache or new loss of taste or smell. Parents are to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep their child home when they are sick. (See Parent Agreement)

### **Social Distancing**

- Classroom group sizes will be 10 or less children, while following all licensing regulations.
- Classroom attendance will include the same group of children each day, as well as the same childcare providers should remain with the same group each day.
- Classroom seating will be arranged to adhere to social distancing in centers, tables, and small groups.
- Classrooms will be staggered during rest room breaks, playground time, art, music, and exercise sessions to avoid mixing the children.
- During nap time, children's naptime mats (or cribs) will be spaced, as much as possible 6 feet apart. Children will nap head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.
- All large group events will be canceled or postponed, including festivals, holiday events, birthdays, and special performances.
- Other than a therapist or teacher who is part of the child's IEP or IFSP, all visitors will be restricted from entering the ECEC and classrooms.

### **Facility Cleaning**

- ECEC staff currently uses [Caring for Our Children](#) (CFOC) national standards for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection of our facilities for children as their daily practice. This was referenced in the CDC guidelines as a trusted source.
- At the end of each program, the Environmental Services Staff clean, sanitize, and disinfect the center.
- We are intensifying cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting our efforts by ordering a Protexus Electrostatic Sprayer system which will allow us to disinfect beyond our daily practices.
- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions will be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves or dishwasher.
- Machine washable cloth toys will be used by one individual at a time or will not be used at all. These toys will be laundered before being used by another child.
- Children's books, like other paper-based materials, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.
- Schedule for cleaning (see attached)
- In the center, the sanitizer used is Clorox Anywhere and disinfectant Spray-9.

### **Caring for Infants and Toddlers**

- In order to comfort crying, sad, and/or anxious infants and toddlers, to the extent possible, when washing, feeding, or holding very young children, staff will protect themselves by wearing an over-large button-down, long sleeved shirt. Shirts will be provided by the Kroc Center. Staff will also wear long hair up off the collar in a ponytail or other up hairdo.
- Staff will wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child's secretions.
- Staff will change the child's clothes if secretions are on the child's clothes. They will change the button-down shirt, if there are secretions on it, and wash their hands again.
- Contaminated clothes will be placed in a plastic bag to be washed at home.
- Infants, toddlers and Pre-schoolers will have multiple changes of clothes on hand at the ECEC.
- Staff will wash their hands before and after handling infant bottles. Bottles, bottle caps, nipples, and other equipment used for bottle-feeding will be thoroughly cleaned after each use by washing in a dishwasher or by washing with a bottlebrush, soap, and water.
- During onset of diapering, staff will use gloves and follow diapering procedures.

### **Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior**

- All children and staff will engage in good hand hygiene before entering room and during all other times recommended as best practice. (See attached - When to wash your hands)
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Staff will assist children with handwashing, including infants who cannot wash hands alone.
  - After assisting children with handwashing, staff will also wash their hands.
- Hand Sanitizers will be available in staff only areas.

### **Food Preparation and Meal Service**

- Food is prepared by the Kroc kitchen staff and vendor.
- During meals, classrooms seating will be assigned using social distancing.
- Meals will be plated for each child by staff.
- Food servicing will not be done by the same staff who diaper children.
- Staff will ensure children wash hands prior to and immediately after eating.
- Staff will wash their hands before preparing food and after helping children to eat.
- Staff will wear gloves and a clean long sleeve shirt while serving meals in classroom. The shirt shall be washed after one use.

### **Vulnerable/High Risk Groups**

The following information about vulnerability and high risks groups will be shared with families and staff.

- Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. To protect those at [higher risk](#), it's important that everyone practices [healthy hygiene behaviors](#).
- Information about [COVID-19 in](#) children is somewhat limited, but the information that is available suggests that many children have mild symptoms; however, a small percentage of children have been reported to have more severe illness. If you have children with underlying health conditions, talk to their physician about their risk and provide care plans for underlying health conditions from your physician to the program.
- If you have children with disabilities, in writing, inform the school to continue to receive the support they need.

### **Everyday actions**

- Staff and children will take [everyday preventive actions](#) to prevent the spread of respiratory illness, such as cover face when sneezing, and monitor signs and symptoms.
- Children and staff will use a cloth face covering when they enter the center and when they go out in the public. [Instruction of mask wearing for children will be worked into the lesson plans from the start. This should encourage mask wearing as much as feasible, possibly making it fun for the children.](#)
- Cloth face coverings will NOT be put on babies and children under age two because of the danger of suffocation.
- If sick,
  - If sick, children will be required to stay home.
  - Staff will be vigilant for symptoms and staying in touch with Administration if or when they start to feel sick.
  - Procedures will be followed to ensure children and staff who come to the ECEC sick or become sick while at the ECEC are sent home as soon as possible.
  - Sick children will be isolated in a separate room until they can be sent home.
  - Sick children will not return to ECEC until they have met the criteria to discontinue home isolation.

- If a sick child has been isolated, the room will be cleaned and disinfected after the sick child has gone home.
- If COVID-19 is confirmed in a child or staff member,
  - The areas used by the person who is sick will be closed off.
  - Doors and windows will be open outside to increase air circulation in the areas.
  - 24 hours or longer will be allowed before the area is cleaned or disinfected to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
  - All areas used by the person who is sick will be cleaned and disinfected.
  - If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
    - Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.
  - Families will be informed in writing.
  - Pertinent governing bodies will be informed.

### **Staff Training**

- Before opening, staff will be oriented to the center's procedures and policies. The training will include the following:
  - Modify arrival and departure procedures
  - Implement screening procedures upon arrival
  - Implement social distancing strategies
  - Intensify facility cleaning and disinfection efforts
  - Caring for Infants and Toddlers
  - Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior
  - Food Preparation and Meal Service
  - Vulnerable/ High Risk Groups
  - Face Covering: Children and Staff
  - Everyday preventive actions
  - Communicable Diseases Reporting among staff
  - Covid 19 Waivers

### **Family Orientation**

- Prior to opening, families will be oriented virtually to the ECEC's procedure and policies. The orientation will include the following:
  - Modify arrival and departure procedures
  - Implement screening procedures upon arrival
  - Implement social distancing strategies
  - Intensify facility cleaning and disinfection efforts
  - Caring for Infants and Toddlers
  - Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior
  - Food Preparation and Meal Service
  - Vulnerable/ High Risk Groups
  - Face Covering: Children and Staff
  - Everyday preventive actions

➤ Covid 19 Waivers