COVID 19 Re-opening Plan for Midland College Childcare (Minimum Standard Health Protocols)

COVID-19 is spread from person to person through contact that is close enough to share droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, speaking, and even just breathing. COVID-19 can also be spread by touching objects where contaminated droplets have landed. Because of this easy manner of transmission, an infant, child or young person who is infected with Covid-19 can spread the infection to others they come in close contact with including household members, teachers, and other children. It is possible for an infected person who has mild or no symptoms to spread COVID-19.

Education and childcare are essential, and we must find reasonably safe ways to restore these services so that our children can be cared for and educated and their parents and guardians can return to work. As safety of our children, families and staff has always been a priority for us here at Midland College, we will make every effort to protect our children and minimize the risk for all.

The protective measures such as cloth face coverings and social distancing that we can expect from adults are simply not possible for infants and children. Just as we will be taking every precaution, we will be asking that parents or guardians monitor the health of their child(ren) and NOT send them to the center if they are displaying any symptom of COVID-19. Given the implications for other children, families, and staff, parents or guardians should seek COVID-19 testing promptly and report results immediately to the center. Parents or guardians should protect any vulnerable persons who are members of the same household or come into frequent, close contact with infants and children who attend daycare.

Based on the CDC guidelines and minimum standard health protocols, Midland College Childcare Centers (HLG Children’s Center, Pre-K Academy and Manor Park) will re-open in compliance with DFPS Licensing, Health and Human Services emergency rules and any other state of Texas mandates.

Manor Park Children’s Center students will temporarily be moved to the Pre-K Academy to minimize contact with the at-risk community at Manor Park. All centers’ students will
be combined into classes by age group as needed to allow for no more than 12 children per classroom.

Staff Training:

- All staff will complete and successfully pass the required online trainings: *Providing High Quality Experiences during COVID-19 for Emergency Child Care Settings* and *Special Considerations for Infection Control during COVID-19*.
- All staff will be required to wear masks which cover the mouth and nose while in the centers.
- All staff will be asked to bring a bag with extra clothes in case of the need to change clothes.
- Staff will be encouraged to have shoe covers or a pair of shoes that are left at the center and only worn at the center.
- Staff are encouraged to wear minimal or no jewelry and to have hair pulled back up off the neck in a ponytail or other updo.
- Prior to entering the center, staff will have their temperature checked.

Social Distancing Strategies:

- To the extent possible, employees will maintain 6 feet of separation from other individuals. Only three teachers will be in any classroom per day unless there is an emergency.
- The 2's, toddlers, and infant rooms will be split into two smaller groups and will not intermingle.
- Children will be separated during naptime, and children will be placed head to toe in order to further reduce potential viral spread.

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocol:

Facilities:

While our standards for cleaning and disinfecting were already high, they will be intensified and done more frequently. As outlined by the CDC, these are the definitions of cleaning and disinfecting.
Cleaning refers to the removal of dirt and impurities, including germs, from surfaces. Cleaning alone does not kill germs. But by removing the germs, it decreases their number and therefore any risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting works by using chemicals, for example, EPA-registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs. But killing germs remaining on a surface after cleaning further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

- Food preparation surfaces, tables and highchair trays will be cleaned and sanitized before and after each use.
- Dishes, serving utensils, countertops, changing tables, and potty chairs will be cleaned and sanitized after each use.
- Blankets, sheets, and mats will be washed daily.
- Doors and cabinet handles will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day.
- In addition to the daily cleaning done by the cleaning service, teachers will disinfect facilities prior to opening and after closing.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned before opening, during the day as needed, after the center closes and by the night cleaning crew.

Toys:

Toys will be cleaned throughout the day and cleaned and sanitized at the end of every day.

Food Preparation:

- Bottles, bottle caps, nipples, plates, bowls, utensils that are not disposable will be thoroughly cleaned after each use by washing in a dishwasher or by washing with soap, water and bottle brush.
- Food preparation surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Tables and high chairs will be cleaned and disinfected before and after serving meals.
- Staff will wash hands after cleaning and disinfecting tables and high chairs and put on a clean pair of gloves to prepare individual plates for each child.

Bedding:

Blankets, sheets, and mats will be washed daily.

Mats and cots will be cleaned and sanitized daily.
Healthy Hand Hygiene:

Employees will wash their hands:

Staff will use hand sanitizer as they enter the center and will immediately wash their hands upon entering the classroom. Staff will wash their hands:

- Before and after preparing food or drink (including bottles), eating, handling food or feeding children
- Before and after diapering or assisting a child in the restroom
- After using the restroom themselves
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid, either their own or a child’s
- After handling garbage
- Before and after assisting a child with handwashing, including washing hands between children

Children will wash their hands:

- Children will immediately wash their hands upon entering the classroom.
- Children will wash their hands before and after eating or touching food or drink
- Children will wash their hands after using the restroom
- Children will wash their hands after coming in contact with bodily fluid, blowing their nose or coughing
- Children will wash their hands after handling garbage
- Children will wash their hands after playing outside

Hand Sanitizer will be used only **in an emergency** when hand washing cannot be done and will always be supervised when used by children to prevent ingestion.

Diapering and Restroom Assistance:

When diapering a child, employees will wash their hands and the child’s hands before and after.

Diapering Sequence:

- Clean the child
- Remove trash (soiled diaper and wipes)
- Replace diaper
- Wash child’s hands
- Clean up diapering station
- Wash hands

After diapering, wash and then disinfect the diapering area. Remove gloves and dispose of and then wash hands.

**Washing or holding a child:**
- Employees will wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child’s secretions.
- Employees will wash hands and change a child’s clothes if secretions are on the child’s clothes. The employee will then wash their hands again.
- Contaminated clothes will be placed in a plastic bag labeled with the child’s name and sent home.

**Screening Procedures:**

Staff and children will be screened daily upon arrival at the center.

Staff will make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness, and confirm that the child is not experiencing coughing or shortness of breath. Parents will be asked if their child has been given any fever-reducing medication.

Staff will use the touchless thermometers to check each child’s temperature. Any child will a temperature over 100.0°F will not be allowed to stay.

**Drop Off Procedures:**
- Check-in and child screening will be from 8:30 am – 9:00 am. There are no other times for check-in or check-out unless pre-arrangements have been made.
- Upon arrival, **parents must stay with their child while being screened** until they have been cleared to enter the building. In the vent a child has a fever or any other symptoms. Staff will take each child to their classroom; parents will not be allowed to enter the buildings. Temperatures will be taken again at lunch, prior to dismissal and anytime there is a concern that a child has a temperature.
- Each child will immediately use hand sanitizer prior to entering the building and will wash their hands immediately upon entering the classroom.

Pick Up Procedures:

- Pick up will be from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. every day. Late pick-ups will result in a $1/minute charge. On time pick-ups are extremely important as we are unable to begin cleaning and disinfecting while children are in the buildings. Continuous violation of the late policy could result in dismissal from the program.

Food Preparation and Meal Service:

- Prior to having children come to the table for meals or snacks, employees will clean and disinfect tables and chairs.
- Employees will wash hands after cleaning tables and chairs and prior to handling any food or food serving containers and utensils.
- Great Western Dining will provide the meals and they will be served by employees wearing gloves. “Family style” dining will not be done during this time. Employees will serve each child their individual plate/bowl/snack.
- No outside food will be allowed with the exception of formula or breast milk and with prior approval from the center director.
- Sinks used for preparing food will not be used for any other purposes.
- Employees will wash their hands after helping a child to eat.
COVID-19 Parental Guidance & Acknowledgment

Policies and procedures based on CDC guidelines and minimum standard health protocols have been established for Midland College Childcare Centers (HLG Children's Center, Pre-K Academy, and Manor Park) and we will re-open in compliance with DFPS Licensing, Health and Human Services emergency rules and any other State mandates. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to discuss it with your center director.

This guide should be read carefully and kept for reference.

- To provide time for cleaning and disinfecting, hours will be 8:30 - 4:30, with check in from 8:30 – 9:00 and check out from 4:00 – 4:30.
- Late fees will be assessed at $1/minute as the ability to clean the centers effectively depends on children being out of the center during the disinfecting periods.
- Individuals age 65 and older are at a higher risk of COVID-19. Parent or guardians should protect any vulnerable persons who are members of the same household or come into frequent, close contact with infants and children who attend daycare.
- Parents or guardians should monitor the health of their child and not send them to daycare if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 OR have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

I, ______________________________, acknowledge that I have read and understand all guidelines set forth by the Midland College Childcare Centers regarding policies and procedures during COVID-19.

I understand that if anyone in my household tests positive for COVID-19, I should tell my childcare center director and my child will be unable to attend for 14 days from the last incident of exposure.

I understand that these deviations from the Parent Handbook are temporary during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I understand that any intentional violations of these protocols could result in termination from the program.

Parent's Signature: ___________________________ Date: _________________

Director's Signature: ___________________________ Date: _________________
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

How to Protect Yourself & Others

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness. More information on Are you at higher risk for serious illness.

Know how it spreads

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
  - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
  - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
  - Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Everyone Should

Wash your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home. If possible, maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.
- Put distance between yourself and other people outside of your home.
  - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
  - Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people.
  - Do not gather in groups.
  - Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings.
  - Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
  - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes
- If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Then, use a household disinfectant. Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work.

Monitor Your Health
- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
  - Especially important if you are running essential errands, going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a physical distance of 6 feet.
- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
  - Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen.
- Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

Handwashing Resources

- Handwashing tips
- Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings