

COVID 19 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 household members, teachers, and other children. It is possible for infected person to have mild or no symptoms can spread COVID-19.

Education and childcare are essential and we must continue to find reasonably safe ways to maintain these services so that our children can be cared for, educated and their parents and guardians can continue to work. As safety of our children, families and staff has always been a priority for us here at Midland College, we will continue to 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 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 school if they are displaying any symptom of COVID. Parents or guardians should seek COVID testing promptly and report results to the center given the implications for other children, families, and staff. Parents or guardians should protect any vulnerable persons who are members of the same household or come into frequent, close contact with children who attend school.

While we continue to face the ups and downs of this pandemic, we will continue to consider the CDC guidelines and minimum standard health protocols to be in compliance with DFPS Licensing, Health and Human Services emergency rules and any other state of Texas mandates.

Staff Training:

- All staff have completed and successfully passed 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*.
- Staff are encouraged to wear masks which cover the mouth and nose while in the centers, especially if they have not been vaccinated.

Social Distancing Strategies:

- Employees will maintain 6 feet of separation from other individuals as much as possible. Only three teachers will be in any classroom per day unless there is an emergency and someone must cover in a classroom.
- Children will be separated during naptime and children will be placed head to toe in order to further reduce the 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 and tables will be cleaned and sanitized before and after each use.
- Dishes, serving utensils and countertops will be cleaned and sanitized after each use.
- Blankets will be washed weekly.
- Mats will be cleaned and sanitized 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 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 and sanitized at the end of every day.

Food Preparation:

- Those preparing food will clean and disinfect food preparation surfaces before and after using.
- Tables and chairs will be cleaned and disinfected before and after serving meals.
- Staff will wash hands after cleaning and disinfecting tables and chairs.

Bedding:

Blankets will be washed weekly.

Mats will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

Healthy Hand Hygiene:

Employees:

- 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, eating, or handling food.
- 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:

- 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 children use it to prevent ingestion.

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.

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

August 2021