

## **SYC Health/Safety Plan 2023-24**

*These policies are based on the best information we are able to gather right now. On the advice of Ohio Public Health, Columbus Public Health, Ohio Division of Jobs and Family Services (our licensing agency), and the Centers for Disease Control change, we will update our policies as needed and keep families/teachers informed.*

**Please direct any questions or concerns about these plans to Susan/Amy at [director@syccolumbus.org](mailto:director@syccolumbus.org).**

### **Goals**

- To keep children, families and teachers as safe as possible while meeting children's developmental needs

### **Emotional Health and Safety**

- We will spend as much time as possible in free play.
- Children will decide where to play and with whom - there will be no requirement to social distance from other children.
- We will focus on trusting relationships - teachers will comfort, hug, console children... and wash hands!

### **Health and Safety:**

*As the health and safety of the community changes and on the advice of OPH, CPH, ODJFS, and the CDC, we will update our policies and keep families/teachers informed.*

### **Masks (optional):**

- If you would like your child to wear a mask at school, either all the time or only sometimes (such as when inside), please let your teachers know. Please send at least two, well-fitting masks labeled with your child's name.

### **Handwashing:**

- Teachers will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer often.
- Children will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer (kept out of reach of children) often: at arrival, before eating, after using the toilet, when coming inside, when messy.
- We will teach and use healthy handwashing habits.

### **Illness Policy**

- **Diligently following these rules helps us keep each other safe.**
- Parents agree to notify school of any conditions or changes in their child's health status, and to inform the school if their child tests positive for COVID or another communicable disease, if someone in their child's household tests positive, or if someone the child has been exposed to tests positive.

- SYC agrees to keep your child/staff member's identity confidential regarding illness, exposure, or testing.
- Teachers and children will be screened daily for health conditions and COVID symptoms.
  - Teachers will **not** be taking children's temperatures at drop off. We ask that caregivers be alert to signs of a fever as well as other symptoms before heading to school.
  - Teachers will ask caregivers if their child has exhibited any of [these symptoms](#) in the last 48 hrs or if they have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for covid.
    - If your child has had **any** of the symptoms on the left hand-hand side, they will need to stay home until they are symptom-free for 48 hrs.
    - If your child has had **any two** of the symptoms on the right-hand side, they will need to stay home until they have a negative COVID test or an alternate diagnosis from your pediatrician, AND improving symptoms.
  - If a parent has any of the above, please consider keeping your child at home unless symptoms are explained by an underlying condition (allergies, asthma).
  - If a child or teacher exhibits any of the symptoms during class, they will be taken to an area away from other people and will need to go home.
    - Parents must pick up their ill child within 30 minutes.
    - *Be sure your contact information is current in the office and that your voice mailbox is activated and not full.*
  - As always, children may be excluded from school for any communicable disease on the communicable disease chart  
<http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS08087/pdf/>
- **If a student or teacher has tested positive for COVID:**
  - They must follow the guidelines of the CPH which currently includes:
    - Staying home for five days
    - If they test negative for COVID after five days, they may return to school wearing a well-fitting mask for days 6-10.
- **Exposure, Suspected, or Positive case in the household of child or staff:**
  - If a child or teacher is exposed to someone with a positive test result, the person is not required to quarantine at home.
    - However, they are asked to wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days, and to take a COVID test five days after the last exposure.

### **Keeping Children/Teachers Safe During Play**

#### **Outside Play**

- As always, the health and safety of the children is our top priority. In an effort to minimize the risk of spreading illness as well as to promote healthy movement and engagement with nature, we will spend as much time as possible outdoors. We will monitor the children's behavior, activity levels and comfort, adjusting our time in/outside as appropriate while prioritizing outdoor play.
- Cold weather:

- "Feels like" 25 degrees and up: outside much/most of the day
- "Feels like" 10-25 degrees: outside for less total time and for shorter periods, longer and more frequent indoor breaks
- "Feels like" less than 10 degrees: any trips outside will be optional, very short and children will be bundled up. Examples: a few minutes to run off some energy, a trip outside to gather icicles, a quick walk outside to see tracks in the snow.
- Temperature is only one factor that will be considered; wind, sun, moisture, lightning and ice will also be taken into account.
- [This chart](#) has guided our plans. It is widely used in other states/programs and our licenser has agreed that it is appropriate.
- The temperature and conditions change during the course of the day/class, so it may be too cold to go out at the beginning but warm enough by the end.
- The different playgrounds present different environmental factors which may affect decisions about going outside. The 2s and 3s playgrounds are shadier in the morning, windier and often wetter which may affect those classes' ability to spend longer periods of time outside. The 4s is sunnier and more sheltered from the wind but has more room for ice.
- Please plan to send the appropriate weather gear regardless of the temperature. If you would like assistance in obtaining the necessary gear, please talk to your teachers or to the directors.
- When we are inside, we will use the doors and windows to maintain some fresh air in the rooms but will not let the temperature go below 65 degrees. Layers under snowsuits are still advised, as 65 indoors can still be chilly.
- We also have air purifiers in each room.
- Hot weather:
  - Cold water and shade will be provided at all times. Please remember to bring your own water bottle.
  - Teachers will monitor children for signs of overheating and provide opportunities to cool off.
  - Teachers cannot apply sunscreen or insect repellent but encourage families to do so before coming to school.
  - Air conditioning or fans will be used to maintain an indoor temperature of no more than 85 degrees.

## **Cleaning**

### **Toys/Manipulatives:**

- Will be sanitized after each group/class, more often if they have been mouthed or used for a long period of time or by a group of children

### **Surfaces:**

- Handles, tables, chairs, cubbies, bathroom, cabinet handles, etc - will be sanitized after each class

- Bathrooms will be sanitized after each use when possible

**Cleaning Supplies:**

- We will use cleaning/sanitizing products approved by the EPA for use against COVID-19.
- Our cleaning company will do a thorough cleaning of all SYC spaces each evening.

**Playground:**

- Sanitize non-wood items, high-touch areas