

## **SYC Health/Safety Plan 2026-27**

*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, Department of Children and Youth (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/Kate 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, DCY, and the CDC, we will update our policies and keep families/teachers informed.*

### **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, upon leaving.
- 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.
- 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
- Caregivers are asked to observe their child for any of the following symptoms in the last 24 hrs prior to coming to school each day.
  - a) diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool within a 24-hour period).
  - b) severe coughing, causing the child to become red or blue in the face or to make

- a whooping sound
  - c) difficult or rapid breathing
  - d) yellowish skin or eyes
  - e) bacterial conjunctivitis-exclude those with purulent (pus) eye discharge, or eye pain, or eyelid redness or fever until 24 hours after treatment with antibiotic.
  - f) temperature of 100°F taken under the arm, when in combination with any other sign of illness
  - g) untreated infected skin patch(es)
  - h) unusually dark urine and/or gray or white stool
  - l) stiff neck
  - j) vomiting
  - i) evidence of lice infestation or scabies
  - l) chicken pox, until all sores are scabbed and no new sores are appearing
  - m) being unusually tired or lethargic, or just not feeling/acting like themselves
- If your child has had a fever over 100, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, they will need to stay home until they are symptom-free for **24 hrs.**
    - 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/>

## **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 licensor 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