



General Guidelines for OST Programs COVID-19 September 2021

What is social distancing in a Childcare center?

Social distancing in a childcare/afterschool program is not what we have come to know as staying 6 feet apart from others.

According to the CDC, social distancing in a childcare/afterschool program should include the same group of children each day, along with the same teachers throughout the day. This helps to alleviate as many children and adults as possible that a child has contact with throughout the day.

TCDN will follow the below Childcare Social Distancing Strategies and Guidelines developed by the Center for Disease Control and the PA Dept. of Health for operations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Please remember that each center will have specific guidelines as to how parents should enter and exit the building etc. These Guidelines are subject to change dependent upon the PA Dept. of Health updates.

General Guidelines

- Please enter the center, if permitted, through the TCDN-marked main door.
- Parents and children please remain 6 feet apart while waiting to be checked in. The entrance will be marked where to safely stand.
- Parents and children are required to wear a mask while in the building.
- Staff will conduct a well check of your child at the entrance. This includes taking temperatures with a non-contact thermometer, and a visual health check to see how your child is feeling. If your child has a temperature of 100, they will not be permitted to enter the building.
- Fewer children will eat at each table with space/seat between the children.
- TCDN will be using plastic utensils until further notice.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Staff and children are required to wash hands upon entering classroom and frequently throughout the day.
- Highly used areas, door handles, and tables will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.
- Per CDC recommendations, disposable gloves will be worn to clean and disinfect. Surfaces will first be cleaned using soap and water, then disinfected with a solution of bleach and water.
- Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, and tables) is not recommended by the CDC.
- TCDN has developed a routine schedule for cleaning and disinfecting all areas of the center. The center teachers will initial and record the time after each cleaning and disinfecting task is performed. The checklist will be available for parents to review, if requested.

Parents/Child

- Parents, please provide a clean mask for your child each day.
- All children over the age of two are required to wear masks while inside.
- During snack, when masks are not worn, they will be stored in a brown paper bag labeled with the child's name.
- Children will be required to wash their hands frequently while at the center. Hand sanitizer will be use if soap and water is not available.
- Book bags, personal toys, or totes are to be placed in each of the students' cubby or container.

- Ideally the same person should drop off and pick up every day. We know that may be challenging; however we ask that you at least limit the number of designated persons who can pick up and drop off to two.
- Mask must be worn while in the center.
- Parents will not be permitted in the center.

Staff Procedures

- All staff are required to wear masks while inside the center.
- All staff have been vaccinated.
- Staff will be screened when entering the building. This includes taking their temperature. If temperature is 100 or above, staff will be sent home.
- As always, all staff are required to wash hands frequently while working with children.

If a child is not feeling well at the center.

- The child’s temperature will be taken
- The child’s parents will be called for immediate pick up.
- While waiting, the child and a staff person will wait in an area removed from the other groups.
- If it is confirmed that a child has tested positive for COVID-19 all center parents will be notified immediately with information from the CDC and the PA Department of Health.

If a staff has tested positive for COVID-19

- TCDN will notify the parents as soon as possible.
- TCDN and the staff will follow the guidelines from the PA Department of Health.

Please sign below acknowledging that you have read and agree to the above guidelines.

Child’s Full Name: _____

Parent’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent’s Signature: _____ Date: _____