### COVID 19 Updates to Policies and Procedures

We are definitely not done with this pandemic as of yet and have seen some rising numbers in our community. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has updated and clarified some of the guidelines we are required to follow as a licensed preschool program. We know that the state mask mandate is changing, but be aware that we still follow all of the CDPHE guidelines for preschools. Please see all of their guidelines below, with the important updates highlighted and some clarification notes. As always (this year), call if your child will be out for any reason. We will check in about illness, symptoms, duration of symptoms and let you know when your child may return (if ill). Please let me know if you have any questions.

### To protect children/parents

-Face coverings are required to be worn in all public indoor spaces

-Children may remove their masks when outside-IF you want your child to keep their mask on during outdoor play, please be in touch with your teacher.

Parents are asked to have their masks fully covering their mouth and nose once they enter the backyard or approach the front office window to talk to Winona.

-Consider implementing curbside pick-up and drop-off

-We do this by having check in come from outside and parents not entering the building.

-Implement alternative child check-in and check-out procedures that minimize parent touching of shared items (pens, paper, etc.)

-Require parents to keep children home when showing any symptoms or signs of sickness

-Additionally if ANYONE in the house is positive for COVID OR awaiting test results for COVID, the child needs to stay home.

-Encourage parents to take their children’s temperature prior to bringing them to child care

-Provide and encourage face coverings or masks for children age 3+ per current CDPHE guidance, no face coverings or masks for children 0-3

-Remove face coverings or masks from children during naps and place nap mats 6 feet apart

-Provide frequent communication with all families of enrolled children specific to all issues in the public health order

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Workspaces

-Prioritize care for children of essential workers, parents returning to work, and job seekers

-Keep groups of children together with same staff when possible

-Conduct daily temperature checks and monitor symptoms in employees and students and any person entering the building. Refer symptomatic employees to the [Colorado COVID Symptom Support tool](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__symptomsupport.covid19.colorado.gov&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=fFFtilKlaBUXDyRDB8qgogaEHKPHWxoG7GLSHGuKp1w&m=4y7fIsF996jaTGigckuGtVqJhZXBH1S0_cZzttCZ88w&s=CBAM4eutQns8AvC-KvAmVOGepw3l5GjzmMuUgtwXG5Y&e=). ([Additional Guidance](https://covid19.colorado.gov/symptom-screening))

-Require handwashing upon arrival and enable handwashing throughout the day

-Limit the number of child-staff and child-child interaction in common spaces as much as possible (e.g. playground equipment, hallways, etc.)

-Encourage 6-foot distancing and, where possible, implement distancing systems while learning

-Stagger meal times and encourage individual meals (no family-style dining)

-Disinfect all high-touch areas at the start and end of the day and, when possible, throughout the day  ([Additional Guidance](https://covid19.colorado.gov/cleaning-guidance%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

-Limit the toys in use to those that are easily cleanable, non-porous, with smooth surfaces and eliminate soft, fabric toys, dress-up clothing, sensory tables and water play

-Establish clear plan to isolate staff and children who have symptoms

-Determine plan for substitute staff members to cover for ill or quarantined staff

### Employees

-Require use of face coverings or masks (preferred medical grade if available, otherwise cloth)  ([Additional Guidance](https://covid19.colorado.gov/mask-guidance))

-Staff will continue to wear masks both inside and outside.

-Provide guidance and encouragement on maintaining 6-foot distancing

-Provide guidance and encouragement on frequent handwashing

-Provide training to all staff specific to all issues in the public health order

-Require staff to stay home when showing any symptoms or signs of sickness

-Provide all staff with support and referrals for their mental health needs