**Little Angels Learning Center Covid Policy**

**Edited: 8/16/22 12:30 pm**

In communities with **HIGH** **transmission level**, CDC continues to recommend that everyone wear a mask when indoors for those over the age of 2. Children and staff will be allowed to non-mask outside.

**When will mask no longer be used at LALC?**

This is a hard question to answer currently. From a center’s perspective, it is a lot of work to train staff and children to wear mask correctly. If we take them on and off at various times, it is a couple months of retraining our children and staff. None of us like wearing mask, but it is not hurting us. We are not seeing developmental issues such as not talking appropriately etc. with mask wearing. LALC will continue to monitor mask wearing and when we are ready to be rid of them, we will let you know.

**What are the changing of rules to Exposure?**

**Definition of close contact exposure:** anyone is w/in 6 ft for 15 min or more of an individual who tested positive. It does not matter if the close contact is from your home, school etc.

* **Quarantine** is now called taking precautions.
* **If you wear a mask=** Everyone who has a **close contact exposure** is now recommended to **wear a** **mask for 10 days when in public**. There is no longer differentiation between vaccinated, up-to-date, or unvaccinated persons. There is no longer a recommendation for masked individuals to stay home for the first 5 days.
* **No Mask=**If a **mask cannot or will not be worn then** everyone, regardless of vaccination status, should **remain at home for 5 days** following an exposure. Must **test negative the morning of day 6 to come back.** The results of the test must be **sent to the director** **before** the child **can come** **back.**
* If a child has even one symptom between day 1 of exposure and day 10, you will be asked to come get your child and retest.

**Rational:** On an average, Children and adults are getting covid between day 2 to day 5. Yes, it is possible to get covid later, but it is not extremely likely.

**Are there any changes to testing positive?**

* **TEST POSITIVE=Isolation** remains the same, 5 days at home and then you can release, **wearing a mask**, if fever free and feeling better.
* A mask must be worn for an additional 5 days when in public.
* **Infants and Ones:** If a mask cannot or will not be worn in public, then the JCHD recommends that a person must remain at home for 10 days. However, LALC will allow a child, to come back after 6 days at home without a mask if they have 2 negative tests in row, 48 hrs. apart. Testing early day **4** and testing the morning of the 6th is best.
* If symptoms recur or worsen isolation must restart.

**Rational:** On an average, Children and adults are getting covid between day 2 to day 5. Yes, it is possible to get covid later, but it is not extremely likely. We have seen people test positive all the way up to day 10 and we have seen people test negative on day 5. It varies with everyone. We want to shorten your time at home as much as possible and we believe that if you test negative two days in a row, 48 hrs. apart, we are keeping everyone safe. (Including our infants under 6 months who have not had a chance to be vaccinated yet.)

**What is an outbreak and what does that mean?**

If and individual daycare room or age cohort has 3 or more cases of infectious illness with in a 2-week period, this will meet the definition of an outbreak and should be reported via phone or email to JCPH. LALC may change Covid policy based on outbreaks. They will make the decision at that time given the information we have. Please understand that covid rules are complicated. If we are concerned about an outbreak, we may need to close for 48 hrs to get advice from JCHD.

**Reminder of our illness policy**

**Illness**

Staff and children should stay home if they have signs of illness. If they have symptoms consistent with Covid but are medically evaluated or tested and found **not** to have Covid, they should follow public health and medical guidance regarding recovery to return. Generally, one must be fever free for 24 hours without medication, no diarrhea for 24 hrs., and other symptoms significantly improving to return to the facility.

We currently follow the JCHD guidelines for illness. While we realize that no one likes the testing process, it is our only current way to be sure your child will not be infected with Covid, and we will not have an outbreak in the center. This is the guidance we have been following since 2020. It is the only way to know the difference between Covid and a cold especially since the symptoms are so similar.

**If a child has 1 of the following symptoms, they must see/talk with a doctor to determine if a Covid test is necessary.**

* New cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.

**If a child has 2 of these symptoms, they must see/talk with a doctor to determine if a Covid test is necessary.**

* Fever, headache, muscle and body aches, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.

**Tuition and Covid**

Currently there is no tuition reimbursement for quarantine days. LALC still must pay its staff, so tuition reimbursement to families is not a current option.

**In the case of back-to-back quarantines:**

The director will have some discretion on how many days is needed to quarantine. This decision will be based on current health department facts and recommendations as well as this director’s best judgment at the time.