

YCA Covid-19 Policies and Procedures

At Young Child Academy, we follow the practices and guidance provided by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), The Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), and the CDC. We realize we may not control every aspect of this evolving coronavirus situation. Still, we aim to implement the best policies and procedures to ensure the well-being of our children and parents, and of our staff as well. We ask for your assistance as we continue to implement best practices.

We do not permit anyone on-site if they:

- Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 5 days
- Are awaiting results of a COVID-19 test due to possible exposure or symptoms

Examples of COVID-19 symptoms include Cough, congestion or runny nose, fever (100.4° F or higher), chills, fatigue, muscle pain or body aches, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, etc.

Staff are trained in health and safety protocols at YCA. This includes:

- How to monitor for symptoms.
- How to maintain physical distance.
- The use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Understanding and practicing frequent cleaning and handwashing.
- How to handle situations when someone develops signs of COVID-19.

Ways Parents/Guardians can help YCA reduce potential exposures to Covid 19 and its variants:

- Please keep your child/children home when they feel sick or show symptoms of illness. If your child shows any signs of COVID, please administer a COVID-19 test. Also, it's essential to inform YCA via email or Procure message if your child/children are sick at home.
 - When submitting a home test result to YCA, please write the child's full name and the testing date & time on the kit. It's the policy we document the test result. Without the proper identification, YCA has the right to re-test the child.
 - You can order Free at-home COVID-19 Tests on [USPS.com](https://www.usps.com) and [SAY YES! COVID TEST](https://www.sayyes.com) websites.
 - Minimize close contact (less than six feet) with other people at YCA. If you need to share a message with teachers, please either message them via the Procure app or email the office.
 - Check your child's temperature before dropping them off at YCA.
 - In addition to washing your child/children's bedding weekly (or more if needed), please clean/sanitize their lunch bags or boxes, as well.
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YCA Face Coverings/Masks Policy:

Wearing masks will be optional at YCA, with the limited exceptions noted below:

- Unvaccinated adults **must wear** face coverings during the drop-off and pick-up times. In addition, YCA has mandated vaccination and boosters for all staff.
- Preschoolers and older students should wear a face covering if they have a minor cough or cold, but tested negative for COVID.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID after at least 5 days of quarantine.
- Individuals who were potentially exposed to COVID but test negative.
- We encourage people to wear face coverings after travel.
- Face masks with ear loops are preferred over ones that tie around the neck or behind the head to prevent the risk of injury during physical activity.
- YCA doesn't recommend using face shields as a substitute for masks.
- Parents should help preschoolers practice wearing a mask at home.
- Infants and toddlers cannot wear face coverings due to strangulation hazards.

Responding to Confirmed Cases of COVID-19:

- **A child (under two years) regardless of vaccination status who tests positive for COVID-19 may return to YCA when:**
 1. **A full 10 days of isolation** have passed since the positive test specimen collection date,
 2. **AND** the child is asymptomatic,
 3. **AND** at least 24 hours have passed since the fever resolved without fever-reducing medication
- **A child (above 2 years) regardless of vaccination status who tests positive for COVID-19, may return to YCA when:**
 1. **A full 5 days of isolation** have passed since the positive test specimen collection date,
 2. **AND** is asymptomatic,
 3. **AND** at least 24 hours have passed since the fever resolved without fever-reducing medication.
 4. **AND** Test negative with an antigen or at-home test any day after day 5 and submit the test result to YCA before returning. If the individual still tests positive, he/she must continue isolating through day 10. Testing beyond day 10 is not necessary.

Quarantine Calculator:

Day 0 is the first day of a positive test.

Day 1 is the first full day after tested positive.

Responding to Identified as a Close Contact of COVID-19:

As long as children do not develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, they may continue to attend school and participate in all activities.

Regardless of vaccination status, students who were potentially exposed to COVID-19 are encouraged to:

- Monitor for symptoms,
 - **AND** wearing masks if possible.
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YCA Closure in Response to COVID-19 Cases/COVID-19 Tuition Policy:

- YCA is required to notify the Public Health Department and DCYF licensor of any positive COVID-19 cases in the center.
- YCA will immediately notify parents via email if a person with COVID-19 has been identified or if your child/ren has close contact with a confirmed case at YCA. Please note that the identity of the confirmed case is confidential.
- There may be instances where the closure of YCA for a few days is mandated to stop the transmission of COVID-19 by our local health jurisdiction. Under these circumstances, tuition is non-refundable and non-deductible.
- If YCA has to close to stop the transmission of COVID-19, we will clean and disinfect the classrooms as required by CDC. For more information, please see the following DOH resources:
 - [Safely Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces](#)
 - [Classroom Cleaning Tips for Teachers](#)

Once On-Site, YCA Will Implement the Following Practices:

- In addition to morning temperatures taken at YCA upon arrival, staff and children will continue to have temperatures taken in the afternoon.
- A teacher will meet your child in front of their classroom door. That teacher will assist with hand washing and depositing the child's belongings. That teacher will disinfect the child's lunch bag. As with drop-off, please do not enter the classroom when you arrive to pick up your child. Please wait for the teacher to bring your child to you.
- YCA will continue to encourage students to engage in frequent handwashing.
- Throughout the day, staff will frequently sanitize commonly touched surfaces—for example, doorknobs, light switches, etc. Please still keep 6 feet apart from other children/parents or teachers.
- During the children's outdoor playtime and under the supervision of classroom teachers, the playground door will remain open, allowing improved ventilation and fresh air to circulate throughout the facility.
- Outdoor time, both play and learning will continue to be maximized.
- If any child exhibits symptoms of illness during the day, their parent will be contacted via Procure messages or phone calls immediately. Parents, please ensure you can get to YCA when called in such instances.

We are maintaining this policy for the safety and well-being of the still vulnerable children. Thank you for your understanding.
