

YCA Covid-19/Delta Variant Policies and Procedures

At Young Child Academy, we follow the practices and guidance provided by Washington State Public Health, CDC, and our licensing organization, DCYF. We realize we may not be able to 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 but of our staff as well. We ask for your assistance as we continue to implement best practices.

We do not permit children, staff, vendors, parents/guardians, or guests on-site if they:

- Show symptoms of COVID-19
- Have been in close contact (within six feet for 15 cumulative minutes over a 24-hour period) with someone who has a confirmed case
- Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days or are awaiting results of a COVID-19 test due to possible exposure or symptoms
- Have been told by a public health or medical professional to self-monitor, self-isolate, or self-quarantine because of concerns about COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days.

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

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

- How to screen 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 Young Child Academy 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 you suspect COVID or your child shows any signs of COVID, please administer a COVID-19 test. Also, it's essential to inform YCA **via email or phone call** if your child/children are sick at home.
- Minimize close contact (less than six feet) with other people at YCA. If you need to share a message with teachers, please message them via the **ProCare app**.
- Check your child's temperature before dropping them off at YCA.
- Encourage your preschoolers to wear a face covering. (Now required for Pre 2 and up. Strongly encouraged for Pre1)
- Parents **must** wear face coverings during the drop-off and pickup times, regardless of vaccination status.
- Please keep your child/children's **toys** at home unless their sharing day or teachers require it.
- In addition to washing your child/children's bedding weekly (or more if needed), please clean/sanitize their **lunch bags or boxes**, as well.
- The best way to curb this disease and protect the children is to ensure anyone vaccinated (12 years and up) gets vaccinated. All staff at Young Child Academy are **vaccinated**. We hope all of you do your part in this regard to keep our community safe.

YCA Face Coverings/Masks Policy:

- YCA has mandated vaccination for all staff. In addition, all staff remain masked inside and outside of the classrooms.
- Parents **must** wear face coverings during the drop-off and pickup times, regardless of vaccination status.
- Pre2 and PreK students are required to wear a face covering except while eating or sleeping. We highly recommend Pre1 students wear a face covering as well. Pre2 and PreK students should always have 2-3 masks (labeled) in their cubby.
- 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 for short periods of time.
- Infants and toddlers are not allowed to wear masks due to strangulation hazards.

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

Domestic and International Travel During COVID-19:

Before children can return to YCA following domestic or international travel, they **must** get tested 3-5 days after their travel and self-quarantine for 7 days. YCA requests parents/guardians complete the **Travel Screening Questionnaire Form** (Page 6) AND provide their child/children negative test results for COVID-19 BEFORE returning to YCA. Your participation is important to assist us in taking precautionary measures to protect everyone at YCA.

Responding to Cases of Suspected Cases of COVID-19/Delta Variant:

- **A child who tested positive for COVID19 may return to YCA when it has been:**
 - 1) 10 days since the positive test specimen collection date.
 - 2) **AND** at least 24 hours since fever has resolved without fever-reducing medication
 - 3) **AND** a written note stating that the individual may safely return after being diagnosed with a contagious disease by a health care professional provider.

- **A child with COVID-19 symptoms but has not been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID 19 may return to YCA when it has been:**
 - 1) At least 24 hours since fever has resolved without fever-reducing medication.
 - 2) **AND** symptoms have improved
 - 3) **AND** family provides documentation of the negative test result to YCA.

- **A child who has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 may return to YCA when it has been**
 - 1) 10 days since last close contact with the COVID-19 positive person.
 - 2) **AND** symptoms have improved
 - 3) **AND** family provides documentation of the negative test result to YCA. Please get tested at least 5 days after the last possible exposure.

- **A child with COVID-19 symptoms who does not get tested but exhibits symptoms may return to YCA when it has been:**
 - 1) 14 days since symptoms began
 - 2) **AND** at least 24 hours since fever has resolved without fever-reducing medication
 - 3) **AND** symptoms have improved

Fully vaccinated staff who have exposure to someone with COVID-19 are not required to quarantine or get tested for COVID-19 unless they developed symptoms.

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.
- There may be instances where the closure of YCA for 7-10 days is mandated to stop transmission of COVID-19 by our local health jurisdiction. If our licensing body requires this, no tuition refunds will be provided. YCA is asking parents to sign the COVID-19 Tuition policy (**Page 8**).
- We will immediately notify all staff and families if a person with COVID-19 has been identified at YCA. We will not name the person who tested positive. We will also provide a copy of the **“COVID-19 Fact Sheet for Families.”**

If we must close our facility for clean and disinfect:

Refer to [CDC's environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations](#)

Once on-site, YCA will implement the following practices:

- 1) In addition to morning temperatures taken at school upon arrival, **staff and children** will continue to have temperatures taken in the afternoon.
- 2) Upon arriving at YCA, we ask that parents not engage with other children, other parents, or staff. If you need to share a message with teachers, please message them via the **ProCare app**. Parents/Guardians must wear a mask that fully covers their noses and mouths while on the premises, even if outside. During this process, we ask that you stay six feet apart from whoever is in front of you, behind you, or next to you.
- 3) A teacher will meet your child in front of their classroom door/sign-in area. That teacher (in the presence of the parent) will sign in the child to minimize contagion of the screen pad. That teacher will assist with hand washing and the depositing of the child's belongings. That teacher will disinfect the child's lunch container before placing it in the refrigerator. **Please do not leave the premises until a teacher has met your child**
- 4) Discontinue actual toothbrushing currently due to saliva/respiratory droplet exposure and sanitary concerns
- 5) throughout the day, staff will frequently sanitize commonly touched surfaces—for example, doorknobs, light switches, etc.
- 6) We will close the school each afternoon at 5:30 for strenuous deep cleaning. When you arrive to pick up your child, please do not enter the classroom. Please wait for the teacher to bring your child and their lunch bag to you. After 4:30 pm, and provided the group numbers are reduced, most children will be outside.
- 6) As with drop-off, please keep 6 feet apart from any child, teacher, or other parents, during pickup time as well. Masks are **required** during this time.
- 7) During the children's outdoor playtime and under the supervision of classroom teachers, doors to the classrooms will remain open, allowing improved ventilation and fresh air to circulate throughout the facility.
- 8) Outdoor time, both play and learning, will continue to be maximized.
- 9) If any child exhibits symptoms of illness during the day, the child will be removed from the classroom, and parents will be contacted immediately. Parents, please ensure you have availability to get to YCA when called in such instances.

YCA TRAVEL SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

- Please **email** your completed questionnaire form before returning to YCA from travel.
- All information in this form will be treated as confidential and must be kept in the child's file at YCA.
- If the answer to any following questions is "**yes**," we **request** the child receive a negative Covid-19 test result (please wait for 3-5 days to get a test after traveling) and self-quarantine for 7 days before returning to YCA.

Child's Name:

DOB:

Class:

Parent's Name:

Phone Number (mobile/home):

Has your child been on a cruise in the past 14 days? Yes / no

Has your child been on a flight in the past 14 days? Yes / no

Has your child traveled internationally in the past 14 days? Yes / no

Is your child currently experiencing, or has experienced in the past 14 days, any of the following symptoms? Yes / no

Fever (greater than 100.4° F)

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

New loss of taste or smell

Chills

Head or muscle aches

Nausea, diarrhea, vomiting

If you do decide to travel, please check [Domestic Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) from CDC.

COVID 19 AND OTHER HEALTH-RELATED TUITION POLICIES

Working during a pandemic or any health crisis poses a unique risk to any institution, but that might be felt most acutely in early childhood education. Children too young to be vaccinated, and unmasked children, are at risk of exposure. But even with extensive cleaning, vigilant mask-wearing, and daily health screenings, we acknowledge that we cannot control everything. By following the Public Health and CDC guidelines, we aim to minimize those risks and provide the safest environment possible for learning and growth.

If illness occurs and the Public Health Department mandates a closure, we are obligated to comply. We cannot choose to remain open if told we must close. As a licensed facility, we must follow the Department of Public Health's directive and our licensing body, DCYF.

This has been a challenging time that has showcased the amazing efforts of a dedicated community. But the risks remain, and we accept those risks together by choosing to be a part of this community.

As a community member, I understand the risk I am taking during this pandemic. I understand that if exposed to the Covid 19 virus, I may be asked to stay home or keep my children at home, per Public Health or CDC guidelines.

I also understand and acknowledge that no tuition refunds will be provided when the closure is enforced by the Department of Public Health or the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)

(Full Name of the child)

(Parent/Guardian signature)

(Date)