



Middle Earth Child Development Center
201 Triad Village Dr. Norman, OK 73071
Phone (405) 561-7579
www.middleearthok.org
01/06/2023

Middle Earth COVID-19 Policy

Our goal is to ensure that young children have a safe and nurturing experience at Middle Earth. We aim to achieve this through a layered approach to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 within the center and our community.

The following document is an overview of the policies and procedures associated with preventing the spread of COVID-19 at the center and within our community. These policies and procedures have been approved by the board and may change as circumstances change within the community.

*For more information on the CDC guidelines on isolation and precautions for people with COVID-19, please visit the following webpage:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>*

Covid-19 Response The center is committed to preventing the spread of COVID-19 through ensuring that all visitors old enough to properly mask remain masked in the center. Only students and staff will be allowed in occupied classrooms. Staff will remain masked in common areas as well as during drop-off and pick-up. Additionally, when staff visits another classroom or is in a classroom that is not their designated classroom, they will remain masked.

The center is professionally cleaned and sanitized on a quarterly basis.

The center encourages families to become fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Currently, anyone over the age of 6 months old is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. If your child is vaccinated against COVID-19, it would be helpful for the center to have a copy of the COVID-19 immunization record.

Covid-19 Health Check and Illness Policy

Daily Health Check:

Staff will conduct a health check of each child at drop off. This consists of a temperature check and observation of symptoms associated with COVID-19. The



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center asks that if the child or any household member has had any of the following COVID-19-like symptoms during the **preceding 24 hours**, we ask you to remain out of the center and notify the center.

- Sore Throat
- Muscle Aches
- Difficulty Breathing
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Fever at or above the threshold temperature of **100.4° F** (or would have without the use of fever-reducers).

Reporting a Suspected or Confirmed Case in Household:

Notify the center immediately if you become aware of any suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in your household occurring within **48 hours after** any member of your household has been present at the center.

COVID-19 Illness in the Center:

If a Child Tests Positive for COVID-19:

Upon a child testing positive for COVID-19, the positive child will be sent home for 5 days. The classroom parents will be notified of the positive case and can decide whether they will continue to send their child back to the center. The classroom will remain open, but the students will be routinely monitored for symptoms. If a child presents with symptoms, they will also be sent home per the center sick policy. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the exposed classroom will not comingle with other classrooms at the center for the 5-day period.

The COVID-19 positive child will stay home for at least 5 days after the onset of symptoms or positive test. (The day of exposure is considered Day 0; the child may return on Day 5). The child may return at the end of the 5-day period with a negative test and improved or absent symptoms. This means the child cannot have a fever over the threshold of 100.4°F, even when fever reducers are not being administered. If the child is still testing positive for COVID-19, they will be asked to continue to isolate for up to 10 days, unless a negative test is produced, and symptoms improve before the 10-day window expires.

Proof of a negative test must be shown for the child to return to the center.



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If a Child is Exposed to an Individual Infected with COVID-19:

If the child develops symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19, they will be asked to stay home for an additional 5-day period starting on the date that they became symptomatic or tested positive for COVID-19. They may return at the end of that 5-day period with a negative test and improved symptoms, including no fever above 100.4°F without the use of fever reducers. If the child is still testing positive for COVID-19, they will be asked to continue to isolate for up to 10 days, unless a negative test is produced, and symptoms improve before the 10-day window expires.

Proof of a negative test must be shown for the child to return to the center.

If a Staff Member is Exposed and/or Tests Positive for COVID-19

Because staff members are fully vaccinated and capable of properly masking, they will be allowed to remain at the center for work as long as they are not showing symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19. Exposed teachers will continue to **mask at all times** for the 5-day period.

If an exposed staff member begins to show symptoms, the staff member will stay home for 5 days from the date of exposure or positive COVID-19 test. Upon return at the end of the 5-day isolation period, the staff member will **remain masked at all times** for the proceeding 5 days at the center. They will be separated from other individuals when masking is not possible (for example, at their mealtimes).

Definitions:

Close Contact:

Someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. An infected person can spread the virus that causes COVID-19 starting 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for people without symptoms, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date.)



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Exposure:

Having come into close contact with an individual infected with COVID-19. An infected person can spread the virus that causes COVID-19 starting 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for people without symptoms, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date).

A child is considered exposed if they were exposed to a child two days before a child tested positive for COVID-19 or is symptomatic (Day 0).

Fully Vaccinated Individual:

An individual will be considered fully vaccinated two weeks after completing the full course of vaccination. The CDC encourages individuals to be “up to date” on their vaccinations. This includes receiving booster shots when eligible.

These policies and procedures are guidelines for decision-making in the center and are based on public health guidance. Each situation is unique, and each case will be evaluated at the discretion of the Middle Earth Executive Director. The center aims to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and acknowledges the challenges presented to families navigating the uncertainties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The board and administration appreciate the understanding of our Middle Earth families.