

Immanuel Lutheran Child Care Ministry

Covid-19 Response Policy

May 2020

The safety and well-being of your children and our staff are of utmost importance to us. This policy, based on new guidelines for re-opening Child Care facilities, is in addition to our regular infection control policies which include proper cleaning and disinfecting of spaces and equipment. This policy will not replace our normal and routine diligence with proper handwashing for both children and staff. Our normal illness policies regarding sick children continue to remain in place. This policy serves to guide in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 in our facility. It is not intended to serve to eliminate disease or sickness and it does not supersede applicable federal, state, and local laws and policies for childcare programs.

HIGH RISK PHASE for implementation on June 8, 2020. This policy is subject to change. A Low Risk Phase policy may also follow.

Drop Off/Pick up Procedures:

Please allow a few extra minutes in your morning and afternoon routines to accommodate the procedures detailed below. We appreciate your cooperation. Our highest priority is the safety of you, your children, your family, and our childcare staff.

Drop OFF: Parents will drop off their child at the designated check-in/out location. A staff member will assess the child's health and record the child's temperature. The parent will wait for assessment of child to be complete before leaving. Parents will not enter the daycare past the designated check-in location. The designated staff member will wear a mask and will sanitize their hands before and after handling and delivering each child to their classroom.

Children under 2 will not have their hands sanitized at this location but will be received into the classroom and will have their hands washed immediately as they come into the classroom.

Children over 2 will have their hands sanitized at the check in/out location, prior to entering the classroom.

Pick UP: Parents will not enter the day care facility but will notify center by ringing the bell on the infant and toddler side and a staff member will deliver the child and their belongings to the door. The staff member will return to classroom and immediately wash their hands.

On the Pre-K side, upon their arrival, the parent will text message the Program Director or other designated staff member as noted at the check in location. The staff member will deliver the child and their belongings to the check-in/out location. The staff member will return to the classroom and immediately wash their hands.

Check-in/out Locations: For the Infant and Toddler Programs the check-in/out location is at the bottom of the stairway leading into the daycare. Parents will exercise social distancing measures by allowing 6 feet between them and the next parent/child. If needed, the line will form in the Fellowship Hall so that the stairway leading to the check-in/out location is kept clear.

For the Pre-K Programs the check-in/out location is outside the Little Warrior classroom. Parents will exercise social distancing measures by allowing 6 feet between them and the next parent/child in line as they wait for their check in/out time. All Children in both the Little Warrior and Big Warrior programs are to be checked in and out at this location.

Concerning the daily health assessment: A child who has a fever of 100.1 degrees or above or shows other signs of illness will not be admitted to the facility. Parents will be asked if the child has recently shown signs of severe cough, fever, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, or extreme fussiness. Children exhibiting these symptoms will not be admitted to ILCCM during the time which they are exhibiting these symptoms.

If a child displays these symptoms during the day, the parent will be notified immediately and will be asked to pick up the child. A child must be symptom free and fever free for 24 hours without a fever reducing medication before returning to the facility.

Staff will also check and record their temperature daily. No staff will be allowed to stay and work if their temperature exceeds 100.1

Concerning the Use of Hand Sanitizer: We will continue to follow the routine policy concerning the use of hand sanitizer. While we will supply the sanitizer when and if available, parents must write a note to be kept on file at ILCCM authorizing the staff to use hand sanitizer on their child's hands.

We will only use hand sanitizer on children 2 years of age and older. The use of hand sanitizer will not replace proper hand washing. Staff will continue a proper handwashing routine and schedule according to the policy and will also teach and implement proper handwashing for all children.

Hand sanitizer is available for use by parents at the check-in/out station.

Concerning the Use of Masks: The use of masks by staff is and will remain optional.

The use of masks by children under the age of 2 years will not be allowed.

The use of masks by children 2 years of age and above is optional. Parents may put a mask on their child at the start of the day. The mask will be removed and placed in a ziplock bag at naptime and the placed back on the child after nap. No children will nap with a mask. If a child takes the mask off during the day. The mask will be placed in a ziplock bag and will be sent home for cleaning. The staff will not insist a child wear a mask.

Concerning the Use of Gowns/Smocks by Staff: The use of gowns/smocks by infant and toddler teachers is encouraged. Gowns will be supplied to the infant and toddler teachers and will be removed and replaced with a clean one if it becomes soiled.

Change of Clothes: Parents should provide a minimum of three changes of clothes for each day their child is in attendance. If your child comes home with a bag of dirty clothes, please plan on sending new sets of clean clothes the next day your child attends.

Concerning Social Distancing: Children will stay with their own class during the hours of 9am – 4pm. Before 9 and after 4 groups may be brought together. All grouping of children will remain according to the staff/child ratios as allowed by the state regulations. There shall be no moving of children from one class to another during the hours of 9am – 4pm. Cots will be arranged in the class at naptime in a “head to toe” position.

In the Event of a Positive COVID-19 Test Result: If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 ILCCM must temporarily close to facilitate cleaning and immediate isolation of those who have come into direct contact with the virus. Those who were in direct contact will self-isolate for a period of 14 days. The facility will complete a deep cleaning and sanitizing and will re-open as quickly as it is safe to do so.