Updated COVID-19 Protocol

October 10, 2022

Building Blocks Child Center is licensed by the Department of Children & Families Office of Licensing. We are required to adhere to all their requirements. This protocol is in compliance with the Office of Licensing and the Covid-19 Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs related to Health and Safety Requirements.

Building Blocks uses multiple strategies to protect the children and adults in our Center. We recommend vaccinations for children. We clean and disinfect all surfaces, toys, bathrooms and mutually shared spaces. Our staff teaches proper hand washing, we maintain cohorts throughout most of the day. Until further notice, parents, or assigned individuals, will be allowed into the building for a brief drop off and or pick up. Parents are not allowed in the bathrooms, classrooms or gym.

1. Parents will screen their child at home. We are looking for COVID-19 symptoms and any other symptom or excludable communicable diseases found in this handbook.
2. Children and/or staff will not be admitted into the Center who are exhibiting a fever of 100.4 or above, or other signs of COVID-19 illness. Children will also be excluded who are exhibiting any other illness or disease.
3. Parents will inform the school of any symptoms so that we may fill out our illness log required under NJAC 3A:52-7.9 and so that we can notify parents of contagious illness in the center.
4. Parents must notify director via email or through the teachers REMIND App if their child or a family member has a positive Covid-19 test result, or is a close contact of COVID.
5. Children will wash hands before entering classrooms.
6. Building Blocks will ensure that the HVAC system will continue to be maintained and operational. To the extent practical, windows will be opened frequently to allow fresh air flow. Additionally, every classroom has individual air purifiers.

**Mask Rule**:

* Children returning during days 6-10 of quarantine.

**Covid-19 Illness Exclusion**:

* Children and staff who test positive for Covid-19 or who have Covid-19 compatible symptoms will be sent home.
* Close contacts will be required to be tested within 3-5 days after a close contact in the classroom or in the home environment.

If your child is sent home, and an alternative diagnosis. (i.e. strep throat, influenza, preexisting condition) is diagnosed by a healthcare provider and **supported by clinical evaluation and/or laboratory testing, and** if there are no known exposure to a Covid-19 case in the last 5 days, please follow our Policy on Communicable Diseases list listed in our handbook. This will help you determine when your child may return to school.

**Covid-19 Quarantine Criteria:**

* The above excluded individuals must quarantine for the **5 full days** after the onset of symptoms.
* Date of exposure is day 1. Date of testing is day 1. Date of symptoms is day 1.
* Individuals whose symptoms resolve after 5 days and or have been fever free (without medication) for 48-hours, may return after or on days 6-10;

**Close contacts**:

* Test **3-5** days after exposure.

**Who does not need to quarantine**:

* Fully vaccinated individuals that are COVID-19 symptom free

**Testing**:

* Must be conducted by a health care provider, if your child is sent home for Covid symptoms.
* Home tests are not accepted.
* Rapid tests are accepted.

**Reporting:**

Building Blocks is instructed to report outbreaks to our local health department. We must identify the person(s), and the date the person was last in the building as well as any close contacts.

**Outbreak**

* An outbreak may be occurring when: several children with similar symptoms are in the same group
* There is an increase in absences with reports of similar symptoms
* 2 or more children are diagnosed with the same reportable disease
* A single case of a highly infectious disease exists or is suspected to exist

**This is subject to change depending on Office of Licensing Mandates and Regulations.**