

IRT COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE PLAN

IRT is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all staff, children, and families. We have developed the following COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our facility and communities, and that requires full cooperation among our staff and families. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our facility and all that enter.

These guidelines are ADDITIONAL steps IRT is taking besides our normal daily cleaning/disinfecting routines and IRT policies. These guidelines are not limited to that which is discussed below. This is a broad tool. Policy and procedures will change and adapt as we gain professional development to help guide decision making and best practices. Iron Range Tykes strives to follow all CDC, MDE, MDH, DHS, and Governor's guidelines.

PREVENTION:

1. Implement social distancing of 6 feet as much as possible.

- A. Classrooms will be rearranged to encourage distancing while playing.
- B. Designated areas of play and toys will be established whenever possible.
- C. Outside play will be utilized as much as possible as direct sunlight is encouraged.
- D. Children will not combine groups unless necessary for child to teacher ratios.
- E. Children will split into groups and utilize other areas of play such as the gym and outside.
- F. Special events and visitors will be canceled or at a safe distance outside.
- G. At nap children will be spaced and placed in head to toe order.
- H. IRT normal sick exclusion policy will be strictly enforced. Unusual absenteeism among staff or children will be reviewed.
- I. Staff have access to PPE equipment and hand sanitizer at all times. Staff that work in one classroom with the same group of children and coworkers are not required to wear a mask/shield. Staff do have the option to wear a face shield vs a mask per the Governor's Executive Order 20-81.
- J. Staff, children, and families will be instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve/elbow/tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face.
- K. Children will not wear face masks unless they can reliably wear, remove, and handle masks following the CDC guidance throughout the day and it does not restrict their breathing during activity play as per the Governor's Executive Order 20-81.

- L. Families and staff are asked to be mindful of traveling and who they come in contact with.
- M. Staff will quarantine if leaving St Louis county, come in close contact with persons out of state, or wish to visit hotspot area's or venue's such as an airport or Mall of America.
- N. Weekly communication and training for staff to implement these plans and supervision necessary to ensure effective ongoing implementation.

2. Intensify cleaning and disinfecting routines:

- A. Less toys and supplies will be available.
- B. High contact areas such as but not limited to: door handles, area around handles, door frames, light switches, drinking fountains, sinks and faucets will be disinfected every few hours.
- C. Gym equipment and outside equipment will be spray disinfected after each use.
- D. Nap blankets will be sent home every Friday to be laundered before returning on Monday.
- E. Frequent handwashing. Children and staff wash hands at drop off, before meals, after meals, after toileting, after outside play, and gym play, and at pick up.
- F. Weekends will have an additional intensify cleaning/disinfecting routine.
- G. Air exchange systems will run extra cycles each day.

3. Modified drop off and pick up:

- A. A Hand sanitizer station will be installed directly inside the facility so all entering can have clean hands before entering the classrooms. Until the dispenser is installed all will wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds each time entering the facility.
- B. Parents are still asked to wash their hands and their children's hands at pick up to prevent germs leaving the facility/classroom.
- C. Only one individual will enter the facility for drop off and pick up. Guardians are encouraged to designate the same 1 or 2 persons for drop off and pick up. Example: grandparents, high risk individuals, and additional siblings should not be entering.
- D. Persons entering are asked to keep 6 feet distance from all in the building.
- E. EXCESS items such as bags, blankets, stuffed animals, and toys are not allowed inside.

- F. Children and persons entering and exiting are to go directly in and out and refrain from wandering and touching additional items.

4. Screening procedures:

- A. Children who have a fever of 100.40°, difficulty breathing, cough, an undiagnosed rash or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the facility. Parents must be on the alert for signs of illness in their children BEFORE ATTENDING and to keep them home when they are sick.
- B. Staff will screen and observe children for these symptoms throughout the day.
- C. Staff will screen themselves daily before entering the facility and be rescreened by directors once at work.
- D. Isolation of a sick individual will be implemented such as waiting in the office or a cot in the corner of the classroom until a guardian can pick up.

MODERATE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION:

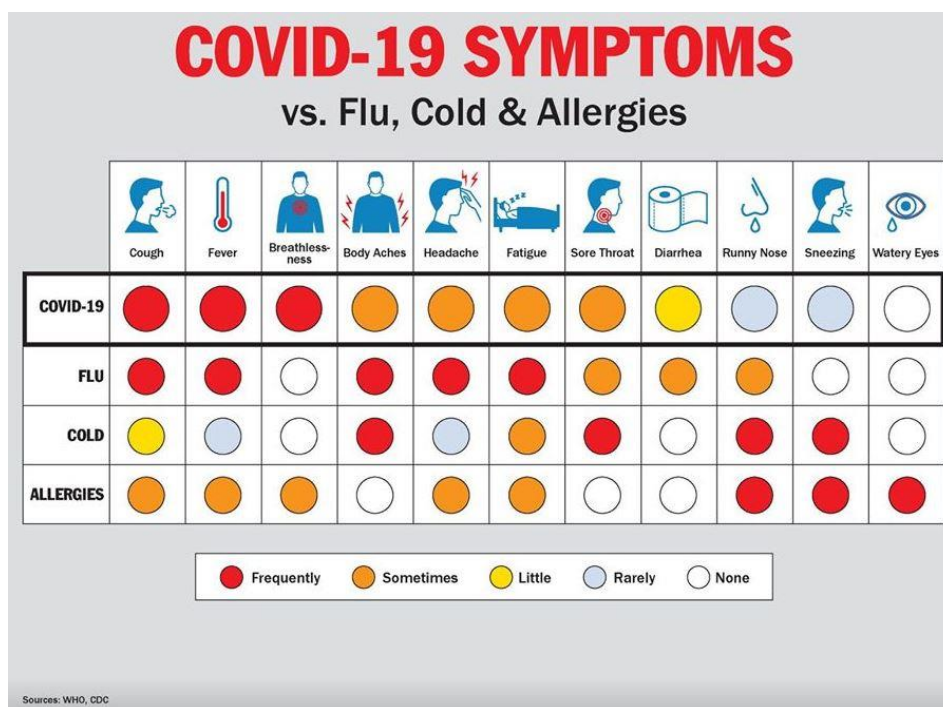
1. IRT will coordinate with local health officials to determine the best strategies for safety.
2. Child drop off and pick will be at the entrance to prevent others entering classrooms.
3. Children and staff will be screened at the door for symptoms.
4. If child attendance is high in certain classrooms, IRT may limit care to essential workers of certain tiers.

SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION:

1. IRT will coordinate with local health officials to determine the best strategies for safety.
2. Child drop off and pick will be at the entrance to prevent others entering classrooms.
3. Children and staff will be screened at the door for symptoms.
4. Care will be limited to essential workers of certain tiers.
5. The facility may temporarily close or reduce hours of operation.

CONFIRMED CASE:

1. IRT will be notified or IRT will notify local health officials and MDH and work with the assigned MDH coach.
2. All families and staff will be immediately notified via brightwheel and phone call. Present children and all of their belongings will be picked up immediately.
3. If it has been less than 14 days since the individual entered the facility, IRT will close for a minimum of 3-5 days as directed by the MDH coach. Families will not be charged when the center is closed.
4. All surfaces and items will be cleaned and disinfected as directed after a 24 hour wait period.
5. Confidentiality of the child or staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act will be maintained.
6. All staff will be tested for COVID before returning and families will be encouraged to be tested.
7. The positive diagnosed individual can not return until they have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers), received a negative test or at least 10 days have passed since the date of first positive test, AND have no symptoms.



To: All Guardians
 Re: Mask Mandate
 Date: 7/23/20

Due to the Governor's executive order 20-81; face masks will be required for ADULTS to enter our facility. If you forget your mask, a box of masks will be on the black shelf at the entrance.

IRT will follow the childcare exemptions of:

1. NOT requiring children to wear masks as they engage in active play all day.
2. Staff that work in one classroom with the same group of children and coworkers are not required to wear a mask/shield
3. Staff may use a face shield vs a face covering

Guidance may change at any time based on the transmission of COVID in the community.