



COVID-19 Adaptation Policy and Guidelines

Updated July 2022

Policies are updated with each new guidance change so please refer to the newest policy.

- Families should be performing daily health checks at home prior to coming into care. If a health check cannot be performed at home, one may be done at the center before the child enters their classroom.
- **Face masks are not required for either families or staff. Please use your best judgment for your family's well-being and the well-being of others.** Also, please be aware that illness policies are firm, and no discounts are given for time away from the center due to illness.
- Vaccinated persons do not need to quarantine in the event of exposure but will need to test and quarantine if symptoms occur.
- Physical distance between families is important. Please consider this when entering a classroom that already has others in it.
- Daily sanitizing and disinfecting of all high contact surfaces, toys, and classroom areas.
- Children are taught to give one another personal space and to respect others requests for personal space.
- Staff and families are to wash their hands upon entry to classrooms and assist children in washing their hands also.
- Individual and family preferences regarding masks will be respected in all cases except where they may conflict with requirements from the Washington Department of Health, CDC (Centers for Disease Control) or DCYF. Lil' People's World policies regarding illness and COVID 19 take precedent over individual beliefs regarding masks and quarantining during illness.

Exposed or Positive-Testing Families, Staff, and Children

- Lil' People's World (LPW) is implementing a test to stay option for those who are not vaccinated:
 - Each day exposed individuals must test before entering the center. Negative test results must be presented at the front desk before bringing your child into the classrooms. Emailed test results will not be accepted.
 - Test to stay dates will be determined according to the information collected at the time of notification of positive exposure or test confirmation.

- Those who choose to forgo the test-to-stay option will be required to quarantine away from the center and to bring a negative test on day 6 before re-entering care.
- Exposure outside of the center is still considered an exposure and still needs to be reported to your Director or Program Supervisor. There are protocols that need to be followed, so we ask for your continued cooperation.
- LPW reserves the right to require mask use or exclude for the 10-day quarantine period if the situation seems to warrant this action.
- Fully vaccinated persons may be asked to test if symptoms occur.
- Siblings of positive-tested individuals will be included in the test-to-stay policy. They will need to test daily before arriving to care.
- REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS:
 - Potentially exposed students, staff or families are encouraged to:
 - Monitor for symptoms AND
 - Consider wearing a well fitted mask for 10 days following the most recent date of exposure AND
 - Get tested 3-5 days after the most recent exposure.
- For individuals who have recently been infected (within the past 90 days) with COVID 19, antigen or rapid tests should be performed as PCR tests may remain persistently positive.
- If an exposed student, or staff member develops symptoms they are REQUIRED to immediately isolate away at home and follow the protocol listed by the DOH and CDC.
- Symptomatic children, staff or families will be required to quarantine according to the recommended guidelines which state:
 - Positive testing individuals must continue to quarantine until:
 - Symptoms greatly/significantly improve.
 - No fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines.
 - Test negative with an antigen or at home test.
 - Masking for days 6-10 if age and developmentally appropriate.
 - Infants and toddlers who test positive and are unable to mask will be required to isolate at home for the full 10-day period AND meet the above criteria before returning to care.

LPW's current illness and health policy will remain in effect and be followed. The above is in addition to the policies and procedures mapped out at each center and reviewed during family orientation.

Center regulations surrounding staffing must continue to be followed as per licensing regulations. If staff are affected and unable to work due to COVID exposure or positive case, it affects everybody. LPW must act in consideration for the livelihood of each center, it's employees and families. We ask that you consider this before sending your child into care with any COVID symptoms.

LPW will notify staff and parents according to the guidelines set forth by DCYF and WA State Dept of Health. Notifications and posting for the Dept of Health will be conducted during working hours and as soon as possible.

Please note that we will review each case of exposure or infection individually. Assessing each event independently allows us to take into account the many nuances that occur in daily center and family life and to set in place the best plan to mitigate the effects of COVID on our families, staff and center operations.

Lil' People's World has remained vigilant and open to serve our community since the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic. We have connected with Public Health and the Coronavirus Response Center and have received guidance that reaches across the spectrum from very strict to very lax. We have worked hard to create policy and guidance for our families and staff that protects our ability to continue to serve you. Your cooperation and support are much appreciated.

Returning to Child Care after Suspected Signs of COVID-19 or Another Variant/Illness

Please note that the CDC's policies are in addition to Lil' People's World's existing illness policy, and Lil' People's World reserves the right to suspend care due to illness.

From the Washington State Department of Health Update on March 7, 2022

Students, children, and staff who have symptoms of COVID –19 are required to stay home and should get tested and/or see a health care provider and follow the return to work/care/school protocol accordingly:

- Individuals must isolate regardless of vaccination status.
- Individuals may return to care after 5 full days of isolation (the test day or first day of symptoms is day 0) **AND:**
 - Their symptoms have improved, or they are asymptomatic
 - They have been without a fever for the past 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
 - Is strongly recommended to wear masks for days 6–10 **OR**
 - Test negative with an antigen or at home test.
- If the individual is not able or willing to wear a well-fitting mask during days 6–10 of their infection, they should continue to isolate through day 10, returning to care on day 11.
- Exposed individuals do not have to quarantine unless they begin to show symptoms. They should still:
 - Monitor for symptoms daily
 - Wear a mask (if age appropriate) for 10 days after the last date of exposure
 - Get tested 3-5 days after the last date of exposure.

- For individuals who have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days, antigen tests are recommended as a PCR test may remain persistently positive and not be an indicative of a new infection.
- At home tests are acceptable.

All COVID test results should be turned into your care provider, as we are required to work closely with the Department of Health to track cases and exposures.