



East Aurora Community Nursery, Inc.
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Karie Kelchlin
Executive Director

September 21, 2022

Dear Parents and Staff:

Please read, sign and return page three to EACN before Monday, September 26, 2022.

EACN kicked off the school year with a conservative approach due to a COVID-19 outbreak in our Center. Now that the school year is off and running and cases are more manageable, we would like to move the school more in line with the CDC's COVID-19 guidance released on August 11, 2022, titled "Operational Guidance from K-12 and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe in-Person Learning" and the OCFS guidance on August 22, 2022. EACN is a private organization and therefore has the right to implement its own policies and procedures. We will continually monitor any new NYSDOH and OCFS guidance and consider all recommendations of the Erie County Health Department and will update you when changes are made. Please forward your child's COVID-19 Vaccine record to tsouder@eacnchildcare.com, if applicable.

Please notify us immediately if you or your child test positive. We are requiring adults and children over the age of two to mask when they have any two symptoms of illness (i.e., cough and a runny nose). If you choose not to mask your child at school when they have symptoms of illness, you will be required to keep them home. Please contact Nurse Teresa to discuss your child's individual situation.

Please keep your child home when they are sick. This includes a fever, diarrhea, vomiting, cough, headache, or sore throat. If your child is exhibiting any of these symptoms, EACN may require you to give your child an at-home antigen COVID-19 test (ages 2 and under may be required to take a lab-based PCR test on day 3-5 of symptoms as at-home COVID-19 tests are not approved for children under 2). If your child develops these symptoms while in care, they will be sent home.

This new guidance will require all of us to stay alert and will require your cooperation. If your child is symptomatic (see above), please keep him/her home. We implore you to use good judgment as we need to be cautious to avoid classroom outbreaks. EACN will no longer be providing quarantine credit as quarantine is only required if Covid-positive. Please keep in mind that staffing may continue to challenge us. If we are unable to staff a classroom due to illness, we may be forced to close that classroom. You will receive full credit for days missed due to closure.

Please see the next page for isolation and exposure guidelines.

ISOLATION

- Anyone (children 3 yrs – adults) who tests positive for COVID-19 must remain isolated at home for a period of at least 5 days. They can return on the 6th day provided that symptoms are improving, they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without medication (ex. Tylenol) and are able to participate in classroom activities. Children over the age of three and adults must wear a mask on day 6-10; OR may remove their mask following two negative at-home COVID-19 tests taken 48 hours apart.
- After observing children under three years of age, we know that they are unable to mask consistently. Due to this concern, children who have tested positive for COVID-19 may only return to the child-care center on day 6, if symptom free. If symptoms have improved, the child may return on day 11.

CLOSE CONTACT

- Anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 (this means when they were within six feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period) should wear a mask for 10 days whenever feasible. If they develop fever, diarrhea, vomiting, cough, headache, or sore throat, they will be required to take an at-home antigen COVID-19 test (PCR test for children under 2). If positive, isolation guidelines above must be followed.

IN CASE OF AN OUTBREAK

Children attending a classroom with an outbreak may only attend if they are completely symptom free (not even a runny nose). If they develop ANY Symptoms, adults and children over 2 years of age will be required to take an at-home antigen COVID-19 test daily or until symptoms resolve (ages 2 and under will be required to take a lab-based PCR test on day 3-5 of symptoms as at-home COVID-19 tests are not approved for children under 2). If positive, isolation guidelines above must be followed.

EACN will work with the ECDOH to mitigate any problems that may arise.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

Karie Kelchlin
Executive Director

Michael Benzin
President of the Board of Directors

Mary Jo Nojaim
Director of Business Operations

Teresa Souder
Nurse