

MEMO

To: All EC & SAP Families  
From: Stacie Boelkins, Director  
Date: January 18, 2022  
Re: Updated Covid Policy for families

The Early Childhood office has reviewed the January 17, 2022 guidance from NYS OCFS regarding isolation and quarantine for programs. We follow NYS OCFS Childcare Regulations which at this time are not the “emergency regulations” that were issued earlier this year.

Currently, the majority of children in our care are not vaccinated, some are not age eligible to wear masks or are not physically or developmentally capable of wearing a mask continuously throughout the day. Our teachers do their best to ensure that children are masked during the program.

In addition, the children are not able to be socially distanced during meal times or during rest time when their masks are off. For these reasons, Christ the King will continue to require that any child older than two who is diagnosed with Covid or who has been in direct contact with an individual with Covid-19 (regardless of whether symptoms are present) remain out of school for 5 days (with day ONE being the date of the PCR test result date). Children under 2 must quarantine 10 days.

Moving forward, we will abide by the following policies:

- **Parents must notify the Early Childhood office (not the child’s teacher) as soon as they are aware that a household member tests positive.** There were multiple instances where we have heard information second hand and had to reach out to confirm with families. This is not acceptable as positive cases must be handled expediently. Failure to notify the EC office may result in a suspension of services.
- We will only accept PCR test results for students. **A copy of the PCR test result should be emailed to the EC office.**
- While a household member is in quarantine due to testing positive, the children in the home will also be considered to be in quarantine.
- If a child tests positive, their siblings (that attend Christ the King) must remain at home for the duration of the quarantine period.
- Siblings who have a household member that was exposed may attend as long as they do not exhibit symptoms.
- Effective January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the center will allow a 50% discount per child per 10-day quarantine, with a limit of two quarantines. **A copy of the PCR test result should be emailed to the EC office.**
- Callers and visitors to the EC Center and offices are expected to be respectful to all employees. The person answering the phone is providing the most up to date information that we are able to and the Director is not always available to take your call. Repeated calls that border on harassment because one does not like the policies that we are required to abide by is not acceptable. **Cursing, screaming, and insulting staff members will not be tolerated and will result in immediate termination of services.**

The staff at Christ the King have been working tirelessly to maintain a healthy environment for the children that we serve. We understand the frustration that the increase in Covid cases presents. We have not had to close the entire program or shorten hours of services as many of our Early Childhood Education colleagues have had to.

We are continually in contact with NYS OCFS as we await updates to their policies. As always, families will be made aware of any changes immediately.

We appreciate all of the support families have given us and thank you for working with us through this challenging time.