

# **COVID 19 Sick Policy, Masks, and Other Important Information**

*Updated 3/2/2022\*\**

## **Sick Policy:**

We will be following our COVID 19 Sick Policy. This policy states that if a child displays any of the COVID symptoms they will be sent home, as well as any sibling that attends BOTS, and cannot return without a doctor's note. Along with the doctor's notes the child must also be symptom free for a minimum of 24 hours without medication. While a Dr. may determine that a child has a virus or something that is not contagious and support a return to school it is not in the best interest of the classroom as a whole or the individual child to return until they are symptom free for a minimum of 24 hours without medication. Symptoms such as vomiting and/or diarrhea, fevers, persistent heavy cough, etc... are signals that a child does not feel good regardless of being contagious. It is also very difficult for our teachers to provide the one-on-one care that a child would need to manage persistent stomach issues or the need for TLC.

If the doctor's feel a COVID test is necessary, the child and their sibling would not be able to return until the results are in.

The COVID symptoms are as follows: fever of 99.5 or higher, chills, diarrhea, stomach pain, constipation, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of smell or taste, fatigue, congestion, runny nose, nausea and/or vomiting.

## **Masks**

As of 3/3/2022, children and parents no longer have to wear a mask in the building. If you would like your child to continue to wear their masks, we will support that decision. The teachers will support the mask wearing in the classroom with gentle reminders. Vaccinated teachers will not be required to wear their mask but have the option of wearing them if that is what they are most comfortable with.

We continue to take all recommended cleaning and sanitation steps to be sure that we are doing everything we can. Teachers have been taking the necessary steps to keep everyone's hands clean throughout the day and making sure the children are doing it properly. They have been cleaning the classrooms consistently and beyond the normal cleaning habits/procedures

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that we had to put in place when COVID first hit. The teachers are still reinforcing covering their coughs/sneezes and turning away and working on teaching them personal space (which can be tricky especially with the younger ones).

We are monitoring the cases in our center and if we see a major increase in exposures with the children and teachers, we will revisit this policy and make changes where we see necessary.

### **COVID Important Information**

We have received guidance from the CDC as well as the Office of Childcare Licensing. It states that while we may follow the guidance that has been given, we as a center can have higher standards that we follow. With that being said, we will gather all of the information from each specific COVID situation and make the best decision on how to prevent the spread of the virus with the children, their families, and the teachers. It is very important to answer the questions in the morning honestly and let us know as soon as a situation arises even if it is a secondary exposure. This means that if a parent is exposed at work the child would be a secondary exposure. This is to ensure the safety of everyone enrolled at Babes on the Square Too as well as our staff and families.

### **Outside time:**

Just a reminder, the children will be going outside unless it is actively precipitating. The Office of Childcare Licensing states that unless the weather is 32 degrees or higher/ 89 degrees or less or if a weather advisory is in effect, the children need to go outside for approximately 60 minutes. If the weather is unfavorable, the teachers can decrease the time the children are outside.

Please make sure that they have all of the proper attire such as gloves/mittens, scarves, jackets, hats, etc.