



Dear Parents,

We are excited to start a new school year! We have fun activities planned for this year!

As COVID-19 Guidelines change, we will continue to make decisions based on information from the CDC and Health Department. Please know that we take as many precautions as possible to keep your child safe. We will continue to have enhanced cleaning procedures and have air purification systems in all rooms. We ask that you help us keep your child's classroom as safe as possible by keeping your child home if they are ill.

Below are the COVID-19 Guidelines we will follow. These guidelines are subject to change based on the situation in our community.

- Masking will be optional. If you would like your child to wear a mask, please let your child's Teacher know. They will have your child wear their mask as much as possible and as much as it is tolerated.
- Vaccinations – If your child is vaccinated, please be sure to give us a copy of the vaccination record.
- Unvaccinated children exposed to COVID-19 in their home will be required to quarantine for 5 days. They are able to return to school after Day 5 as long as they are symptom free.
- When there is a positive case of COVID-19 in a classroom, parents will be notified to watch for symptoms. Classrooms will not close until 25% or more of the children test positive for COVID-19. You, of course, can keep your child home after exposure if that is how you feel most comfortable.
- If a child tests positive for COVID-19, please contact us to let us know. The child will be able to return to school after Day 5 as long as they are symptom free. Day 0 is the date of a positive test or the first day of symptoms. When returning to school, the child must wear a mask as much as tolerated through Day 10. Care will be taken to not have the child in close contact with other children when a mask cannot be worn, such as napping.
- Children that are ill for more than 3 days must have a Doctor's Note to return. With any illness, children must be symptom and fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

We are also excited to be able to allow volunteers in the classroom again! If you would like to volunteer in your child's class, you will be required to be fully vaccinated. The Office of Head Start requires that anyone working with children be fully vaccinated. The first time you volunteer, please bring your vaccination card. We are also able to have more events this year. Everyone is able to attend events outside the classroom regardless of vaccination status. We look forward to seeing you in classrooms and at our fun family events!!!

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns at 309-699-6843.

Looking forward to a great year!

Your Head Start Staff