

## Union City Day Care Program



219-47th Street  
Union City, NJ 07087  
(201) 348-2754  
(201) 348-5774 Facsimile

## Union City Early Childhood Learning Center



510-35th Street  
Union City, NJ 07087  
(201) 558-0117  
(201) 558-0123 Facsimile

## **UPDATED COVID POLICY**

Dear Parents,

**Effective Friday, May 12, 2023, the wearing of masks during school became OPTIONAL for ALL STAFF AND CHILDREN 2 and older. Exceptions to this change are noted below under “Masks”.**

Please note that our centers will continue to practice all other hygiene procedures, and sanitation of our equipment and classroom materials. Also remember that vaccinations and boosters remain the best defense to prevent severe COVID-19 and to reduce interruptions in learning and care. Students and staff are encouraged to stay up to date with vaccines and boosters.

In addition, The New Jersey Department of Health recommends child care centers continue to follow these COVID-19 prevention measures:

### **Safety Recommendations**

- Encourage students and staff to stay up to date with vaccination.
- Encourage students and staff to stay home when sick.
- Support mask use by students and staff who choose to mask at any time.
- Prohibit in-person attendance for those who are symptomatic or have recently tested positive for COVID-19 and other contagious illnesses.
- Implement control measures recommended by local health departments in response to clusters of cases (including increases in respiratory illness) and confirmed outbreaks.

### **Masks**

The Department of Health continues to recommend these masking guidelines to childcare centers:

- When COVID-19 Community Levels are high, the Department of Health recommends universal masking for all students and staff, especially if there is difficulty incorporating other prevention strategies like adequate ventilation and spacing.
- During an active outbreak, schools should consult with their local health departments about whether to require short-term universal masking or masking in affected classrooms.

- Students and staff who return to childcare after 5 full days of isolation should be required to mask during days 6-10, or until they test negative using two antigen tests collected at least 48 hours apart starting on day 6.
- After a COVID-19 exposure, exposed individuals should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days from last exposure, regardless of vaccination status.
- When illness occurs, students or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in care should wear a mask until they leave the premises.

### **Stay Home and Isolate When Sick**

Students and staff should stay home and isolate if they test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms like coughing, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea. Parents and caregivers should monitor their children for signs of illness.

Regardless of vaccination status, individuals who test positive or have COVID-19 symptoms but have not been tested and do not have an alternative diagnosis from their healthcare provider should:

- Stay home for at least 5 full days after the onset of symptoms (or, if symptoms are not present, after the positive test) and isolate from others.
- If they have no symptoms or symptoms are lessening after 5 days, they can return to school and should wear a high-quality mask around others (indoors and outdoors) for an additional 5 days including participation in any extracurricular activities. Time without a mask being worn should be kept to a minimum.

For more details, visit the [NJ Department of Health's Public Health](https://www.nj.gov/health/eoh/ohrt/) website. You may also obtain additional information and access the CDC isolation and exposure calculator at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>

If you should have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a member of our personnel. Thank you for your attention.

Katia Stack

Executive Director