



Mid-Island Y JCC

Early Childhood Center



Mid-Island Y JCC

Youth & Teen Center

SAFETY & OPERATIONS PLAN

2021



SAFETY & OPERATIONS PLAN 2021

Effective September 9, 2021

In response to the current pandemic, temporary adjustments to our policies and procedures must be made with regards to the course of our school/camp day so that we may continue to care for and educate the children in our program safely and with intention. Recommendations from the CDC, OCFS and our local Department of Health were considered in depth to provide the foundation for this plan. As things evolve, updates will be made to these policies as needed, and families will be notified by email.

Parents, staff, members and guests are required to wear masks when they enter the building and in all common areas. Please note that these Mid-Island Y JCC Early Childhood and Youth Center Safety and Operations Plan policies supersede any similar policies in the MIYJCC Early Childhood Center Parent Handbook or the SHDC Parent Handbook.

Arrival

Masked parents and caregivers will be allowed entrance to the facility. Arrival times will be staggered. Each family is required to monitor your child for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and notifying us of any contact with a COVID-19 positive individual. We ask parents to adhere to their assigned arrival and departure times, and to please drop-off and pick-up as quickly as possible. We ask that families limit drop-off to one adult, and to please avoid bringing siblings when possible. Daily health checks will still be required as per OCFS regulations, however no children will be permitted to enter the facility if they have a temperature of 100.0 or above, have trouble breathing, a cough, sore throat, or visibly look ill. Children may not be dropped off asleep.

Parents should park their car in our parking lot and walk their child to the door of their classroom. A staff member will take each child's temperature at the door with an Infrared Body Thermometer. If the child's temperature is less than 100.0 degrees they will be admitted into the program for the day. Arrival times will be staggered so that an appropriate health check can be completed and to reduce crowding at the doors. All parents and children ages two and up must arrive wearing a mask, and we kindly ask you to maintain social distancing while waiting to drop-off your child. Children will be checked in on Tadpoles by the teacher at their classroom door. Shoes must be removed by children and adults upon entering the classrooms of infants. Children's toys from home will not be permitted. Early Childhood children arriving to school on the bus will have their temperature checked prior to boarding the bus, and will be required to wear a mask while riding the bus. For Second Home Daycare arrival in the afternoon by MIYJCC bus, children will enter at the bus loop doors. Your child's temperature will be taken upon arrival to the building, followed by the OCFS regulatory health check upon entering their classroom.

Health Checks:

Children will be checked upon arrival in their classrooms for blisters and rashes, and rechecked during the day.

Dismissal:

Pickup will begin at 3:00 pm at classroom doors. Parents must park their car in our parking lot, and then come into the building wearing a mask and their temperature will be taken. We ask that families limit dismissal to one adult, and to please avoid bringing siblings when possible. Dismissal will be staggered. Please maintain social distancing while waiting for your child to be dismissed. Tadpoles will be updated when the child has left the classroom.



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Masks and Protective Gear:

Masks must be worn at all times where staff are interacting with the public (*drop off and pick up*) as well as any time they are interacting with other staff. As per the New York State Childcare and Day Camp regulations, vaccinated staff must model appropriate mask wearing in all instances where unvaccinated children are required to mask. MIYJCC policy requires all staff to wear masks while indoors. Outside, staff will not be required to wear masks.

Masks are strongly encouraged, but not required for children ages 2 through 4 while indoors. Masks are mandatory when riding the bus. School aged children ages 5 and up are required to wear masks at all times while on the bus and indoors. Children will not wear masks while eating, drinking, swimming, or sleeping. They will be provided mask breaks when possible, and will be able to remove masks when outdoors. Gloves will be worn while changing diapers, assisting children with anything that involves bodily fluids, touching food, and all other necessary times.

Physical and Social Distancing:

In order to adhere to guidelines recommended by the CDC and local and state health departments, and to minimize risk of infections, efforts to encourage social distancing will be developed in a manner that is appropriate for each age level. Additionally, stringent disinfection and prevention of the spread of germs will be implemented and improved upon.

Grouping Children:

Following recommendations made by the CDC, children will be grouped in steady pods and group size limited will be in accordance with OCFS maximum group size by age group. Children should nap further apart than usual, and during all times, best efforts should be made to maintain social distancing practices.

Classroom Materials:

Toys in the classroom will be limited to items that can easily be disinfected. Sensory materials, dress up clothes, and other items that are difficult to disinfect and are used by all have been put away. Toys will be disinfected between use by each child, especially when placed in the mouth, and children will be given their own set of materials for use during the day when possible. Bedding must be sent home and laundered at the end of each week.

Playground and Other Mixed-Use Equipment:

Mixed use spaces will continue to be used, and will be thoroughly regularly.

Handwashing, Disinfecting and Sanitizing:

Children and teachers will wash their hands upon arrival in the classroom, between activities (*including art*), after returning from outdoor play, and before and after eating. All shared classroom materials will be disinfected between each child's use (*especially when put in the mouth*). Tables, chairs, faucets, Doorknobs, light switches, handles, etc., will be disinfected regularly. Walkie talkies, phones, and classroom iPads will also be disinfected regularly.



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Food:

We will offer a cold breakfast and hot lunch, as well as mid-morning and afternoon snack. Snacks and meals will be plated for each child in accordance with the Department of Health and CDC guidelines. Children's lunches and snacks sent from home can be stored in the classroom refrigerator. No lunches or snacks can be warmed. Children's food from home will be plated by a staff member using gloves.

Sick Child Policy:

If a child develops a fever, shortness of breath, a new cough, GI symptoms, lethargy, chills, rash or other potential coronavirus symptoms during the day, the child will be immediately removed from the classroom by the administrative team who will also contact the parent and assess the child's symptoms. If a parent is not immediately available to pick up the child, another family member or caregiver (*listed on the authorized pick-up form*) must be called who can pick up immediately. Children may not return to school until 72 hours after symptoms resolve without medical intervention. If children are being sent home with symptoms not typically associated with the coronavirus, they must remain at home until 24 hours after symptoms have resolved. When symptoms are COVID-19 related, a negative COVID test and 24 hours symptoms free will allow admittance back into the program. Please note, your child must remain at home while a PCR test is pending.

Positive Case of Coronavirus:

Should a staff member or child in our school become positive with a case of coronavirus, we will contact the local department of health and our healthcare consultant, and follow their guidance. The parents will be notified in writing that a positive case has been in the school via email, and parents from the affected class will be called. We are prevented by HIPAA and privacy laws from sharing the name of the individual that tested positive.

A 14 day quarantine, after last date of exposure, is required when a household member tests positive. When your child has been exposed to COVID-19 out of the home, a 10 day quarantine is required.

Communication:

Communication will occur as usual between teacher and parent via email as needed, as well as through Tadpoles. The Director/ Assistant Director will communicate with parents regularly regarding necessary changes to the program and policies, and will update families regarding health information in a timely manner.

We kindly ask that families remain in the hallway at arrival and dismissal, and to please avoid short conversations with their teachers during this time. Please utilize phone and email for this level of communication. We are excited to welcome families back inside the building, but would like to still adhere to the new procedures that have been developed over the last year so we can continue to connect meaningfully with families, in ways other than inviting them into our classrooms and in-person conferences.