



## **YCA Covid-19 Policies and Procedures**

### **Summary of March 2022 Changes/Key Points – Effective March 14th, 2022**

- Masks will be required for Staff, families, and Pre2/PreK students (Pre1 recommended) at YCA until further notice.
- Please review updated information on self-quarantine
- YCA now accepts at-home tests.
- YCA will close the school at 5:45 pm daily

At Young Child Academy, we follow the practices and guidance provided by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), CDC, and our licensing organization, DCYF. We realize we may not control every aspect of this evolving coronavirus situation. Still, we aim to implement the best policies and procedures to ensure the well-being of our children and parents, but of our staff as well. We ask for your assistance as we continue to implement best practices.

### **We do not permit children, staff, vendors, parents/guardians, or guests on-site if they:**

- Show symptoms of COVID-19
- Have been in close contact (within six feet for 15 cumulative minutes over a 24-hour period) with someone who has a confirmed case
- Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days
- are awaiting results of a COVID-19 test due to possible exposure or symptoms

**Examples of COVID-19 symptoms include Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever (100.4° F or higher), chills, fatigue, muscle pain or body aches, headache, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, etc.**

### **Staff are trained in health and safety protocols at YCA. This includes:**

- How to monitor for symptoms.
- How to maintain physical distance.
- The use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Understanding and practicing frequent cleaning and handwashing.
- How to handle situations when someone develops signs of COVID-19.



## **Ways Parents/Guardians can help YCA reduce potential exposures to Covid 19 and its variants:**

- Please keep your child/children home when they feel sick or show symptoms of illness. If your child shows any signs of COVID, please administer a COVID-19 test. Also, it's essential to inform YCA via email or Procure message if your child/children are sick at home.
- Minimize close contact (less than six feet) with other people at YCA. If you need to share a message with teachers, please message them via the Procure app.
- Check your child's temperature before dropping them off at YCA.
- Encourage your preschoolers to wear a face covering. [\(It is still required for Pre 2 and up. Strongly encouraged for Pre1\)](#)
- Parents must wear face coverings during the drop-off and pickup times, regardless of vaccination status.
- Please keep your child/children's **toys** at home unless their sharing day or teachers require it.
- In addition to washing your child/children's bedding weekly (or more if needed), please clean/sanitize their lunch bags or boxes, as well.
- The best way to curb this disease and protect the children is to ensure anyone eligible to be vaccinated (5 years and up) gets vaccinated. All staff at YCA are **fully vaccinated**. We hope all of you do your part in this regard to keep our community safe.

## **YCA Face Coverings/Masks Policy:**

- YCA has mandated vaccination for all staff. In addition, all staff will continue to wear face coverings inside and outside of the classrooms.
- Parents **must** still wear face coverings during the drop-off and pickup times.
- Pre2 and PreK students are still **required** to wear a face-covering while inside, except while eating or sleeping. We highly recommend Pre1 students wear a face covering as well. Pre2 and PreK students should always have 2-3 masks in their cubby.
- Face masks with ear loops are preferred over ones that tie around the neck or behind the head to prevent the risk of injury during physical activity.
- YCA doesn't recommend using face shields as a substitute for masks.
- Parents should help preschoolers practice wearing a mask at home.
- Infants and toddlers cannot wear face coverings due to strangulation hazards.

## **Domestic and International Travel During COVID-19:**

- ***For a non-fully vaccinated child, please:***

1. Self-quarantine for **a full 5 days** after travel.
2. Get tested with a viral test between 3rd-5th days after returning from travel. YCA requests parents/guardians provide their child/children negative test results for COVID-19 **BEFORE** returning to YCA. When submitting a home test result to YCA, please write the child's full name and the testing date & time on the kit. It's the policy we need to keep a copy of the test result in the child's file. Without the proper identification, YCA has the right to re-test the child.

- ***For a fully vaccinated child, please:***

1. Provide YCA with a copy of the child vaccination card **BEFORE** traveling. Email is fine.
2. Do a viral test if the child develops any Covid symptoms. It's still necessary to provide YCA with the test result.

Please note that fully vaccinated children do not need to self-quarantine after travel. Fully vaccinated means a person vaccinated two weeks after completion in primary series.

Below are Travel Requirements and Recommendations from CDC.

[Domestic Travel During COVID-19](#) [International Travel](#)

## **Responding to Suspected Cases of COVID-19:**

- ***A child ( under two years) regardless of vaccination status, who tests positive for COVID-19 may return to YCA when:***

1. **A full 10 days** have passed in self-quarantine since the positive test specimen collection date,
2. **AND** the child is asymptomatic,
3. **AND** at least 24 hours have passed since fever resolved without fever-reducing medication

- ***A child ( above 2 years) regardless of vaccination status who tests positive for COVID-19, may return to YCA when:***

1. **A full 5 days** has passed in self-quarantine since the positive test specimen collection date,
2. **AND** can wear a mask during days 6-10 of their isolation period at school.
3. **AND** is asymptomatic,
4. **AND** at least 24 hours have passed since the fever resolved without fever-reducing medication.



- ***A child, regardless of vaccination status, who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms but has not been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with Covid-19, may return to YCA when:***
  1. **At least 24 hours** have passed since the fever was resolved without fever-reducing medication.
  2. **AND** is asymptomatic,
  3. **AND** gets tested with a viral test immediately. Please provide the child's negative test results for COVID-19 **BEFORE** returning to YCA. When submitting a home test result to YCA, please write the child's full name and the testing date & time on the kit. YCA needs to keep a copy of the test result in the child's file. Without the proper identification, YCA has the right to re-test the child.
- ***A non-fully vaccinated child who has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 may return to YCA when:***
  1. **A full 5 days** have passed in self-quarantine since last close contact with the Covid-19 positive person.
  2. **AND** is asymptomatic,
  3. **AND** at least 24 hours have passed since fever resolved without fever-reducing medication
  4. **AND** gets tested with a viral test between 3rd-5th self-quarantine days. Please provide the child's negative test results for COVID-19 **BEFORE** returning to YCA. When submitting a home test result to YCA, please write the child's full name and the testing date & time on the kit. It's the policy we need to keep a copy of the test result in the child's file. Without the proper identification, YCA has the right to have the child retest again.
- ***Fully vaccinated children who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 are not required to quarantine unless they developed symptoms and test positive for COVID-19.***

### **YCA Closure in Response to COVID-19 Cases/COVID-19 Tuition Policy:**

- YCA is required to notify the Public Health Department and DCYF licensor of any positive COVID-19 cases in the center.
- YCA will immediately notify parents via email if a person with COVID-19 has been identified or if your child/ren has close contact with a confirmed case at YCA. Please note that the identity of the confirmed case is confidential.
- There may be instances where the closure of YCA for a few days is mandated to stop the transmission of COVID-19 by our local health jurisdiction. Under these circumstances, tuition is non-refundable and non-deductable.
- If YCA has to close to stop the transmission of COVID-19, we will [clean and disinfect the classrooms](#) as required by CDC.



### **Once On-Site, YCA Will Implement the Following Practices:**

- In addition to morning temperatures taken at school upon arrival, staff and children will continue to have temperatures taken in the afternoon.
- Upon arriving at YCA, we ask parents not to engage with other children, other parents, or staff. Parents/Guardians must wear a mask that fully covers their noses and mouths while on the premises. If you need to share a message with teachers, please message them via the ProCare app.
- A teacher will meet your child in front of their classroom door/sign-in area. That teacher (in the presence of the parent) will sign in the child to minimize contagion of the screen pad. That teacher will assist with hand washing and depositing the child's belongings. That teacher will disinfect the child's lunch container before placing it in the refrigerator. Please do not leave the premises until a teacher has met your child
- YCA will continue to encourage students to engage in frequent handwashing.
- During this process, we ask that you stay six feet apart from whoever is in front of you, behind you, or next to you.
- Throughout the day, staff will frequently sanitize commonly touched surfaces—for example, doorknobs, light switches, etc.
- We will close the school each afternoon at 5:45 pm for extra cleaning. Please do not enter the classroom when you arrive to pick up your child. Please wait for the teacher to bring your child and their lunch bag to you. After 4:30 pm, and provided the group numbers are reduced, most children except infants will be outside.
- As with drop-off, please keep 6 feet apart from any child, teacher, or other parents, during pickup time as well. Masks are required during this time.
- During the children's outdoor playtime and under the supervision of classroom teachers, doors to the classrooms will remain open, allowing improved ventilation and fresh air to circulate throughout the facility.
- Outdoor time, both play and learning will continue to be maximized.
- If any child exhibits symptoms of illness during the day, their parent will be contacted via Procure messages or phone calls immediately. Parents, please ensure you can get to YCA when called in such instances.

***We are maintaining this policy for the safety and well-being of the still vulnerable children. Thank you for your understanding.***