

Welcome Back Childcare Families!

Answers to your Frequently Asked Questions

May 7, 2020 (this document will be updated as the situation changes)

These parent FAQs are to help communicate guidelines to best keep our children, staff, and families healthy during these unique times. We will follow recommendations of the local, state, and federal government. We always take great care regarding the sanitation, health, and safety in our programs; however, due to COVID-19 public health crisis developments we will modify our practices to keep health and safety a top priority.

Q: Will there be screening processes in place for children and staff?

A: *Children and staff who enter will have to be screened for any symptoms of illness or fever as well as complete the below daily Health Screen. Based on answers, you might be denied entry into our program. Anyone with a fever of more than 100.4F must remain out of YMCA childcare for 48 hours after the fever has broken without fever reducing medications. We will not allow a doctor's note for returning before 48 hours.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Do you or anyone in your family have any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, difficulty breathing, or sore throat?
<input type="checkbox"/> Have you been exposed to anyone with or quarantined for Covid?
<input type="checkbox"/> Take the child's temperature and record here (if over 100.4, they cannot stay)

Q: Is it safe for my child to participate in childcare?

A: *The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne is taking extra precautions to effectively ensure the health and well-being of all children that participate in YMCA childcare programs. We have created new policies and procedures to ensure our facility is properly sanitized and put measures in place to promote social distancing.*

Q: How are staff members ensuring social distancing for children throughout the day?

A: *Children will be placed in groups of 9 or less. Staff will remain actively engaged with children in order to enforce social distancing guidelines. Staff will use visible tools for children like hula hoops, poly dots and approved tape to mark the 6 feet distances. More individual projects vs. group projects will be planned. The YMCA will stop all food-based curriculum activities until further notice. While seated at tables, students will be staggered or sat at opposite ends to follow for social distancing. We will limit children from mixing with other groups/classrooms, reducing routes of exposure.*

Q: Will staff have to wear masks? What about children?

A: *Yes, staff will be required to wear masks. Children over the age of 2 years old are encouraged to wear a mask provided by the parents, but it is not required. We will continue to follow all of the state and local guidelines.*

Q: How is staff cleaning the facility (including surfaces and toys)?

A: *The cleaning and disinfecting will occur multiple times per day. Additional personnel will ensure the cleanliness of the facility. After a child has played/used an item, it will be placed into a designated area for sanitizing. When items are properly sanitized, they will be made available for play once again. Staff will disinfect high traffic areas such as (but not limited to) doors, tables, chairs, handles, faucets, and frequently touched surfaces. Staff will also sanitize each curriculum item or activity resource after the completion of each rotation within the classroom and gymnasium.*

Q: How will food preparation and meal service look?

A: *During meal time, all surfaces will be disinfected at the beginning of each shift, before the meal preparation and feedings, and after meal is finished using CDC and EPA approved disinfectant products. Staff will monitor and enforce handwashing for all children before and after meal times. Lunch times may be staggered to maintain our smaller group sizes. While seated at tables, students will be zigzagged or sat at opposite ends to follow the 6 foot social distance guidelines. If meals are typically served family-style, staff will now plate each child's meal to serve it so that multiple children are not using the same serving utensils.*

Q: What is the policy for handwashing?

A: *Staff will mandate frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the restroom, before and after eating, after blowing one's nose, or if a child touches their face. Staff members will supervise children washing their hands. Handwashing will be incorporated into the daily schedule and staff and children will wash hands at every transition. If soap and water are not readily available, staff will closely supervise use of hand sanitizer.*

Q: What is the protocol for drop off and pick up?

A: *Parents will not be allowed to enter childcare program areas. Designated drop-off and pick-up locations will limit routes of exposure and facilitate less congestion. Staff will sign children in and out. We know this time is an important time for parent/staff dialogue; we will rely more on phone conversations and emails to continue good communication.*

Q: What if a known family member has a confirmed case of the virus?

A: *If the child or anyone in the home was in direct contact with someone with Covid-19, families must inform the YMCA ASAP. The child will be required to stay home for at least 14 days.*

Q. What is expected from childcare parents at this time?

A: *We need your help in keeping students and staff healthy. It is the responsibility of the parents to be open and honest with staff about any illnesses the child or household members may be experiencing. Children with a fever and cough should be seen by a medical provider. We ask for open communication and feedback as we navigate this unique time together.*

Q: What types of activities will be provided?

A: *Examples of activities that will be offered are the following:*

- *Legos*
- *Lincoln Logs*
- *Plastic Manipulatives*
- *Non-Foam Blocks*
- *Battleship (w/social distancing example sitting on one ends of the tables)*
- *Kinex*
- *Toy Cars*
- *Plastic Action Figures*
- *Sewing paper plates with yarn*
- *Q-Tips for Painting*
- *Cup Stacking (plastic cups only)*
- *Drawing w/markers and colored pencils*
- *Dramatic Play (Plastic Kitchen, Plastic Doll House, etc.) as long as it is individual and cleaned after each child use*
- *Tag using pool noodles so children are not directly touching*
- *Individual fitness games*

The following will not be allowed because it cannot be properly sanitized between uses:

- *Play-Dough*
- *Kinetic Sand*
- *Board Games that are paper*
- *Soft Surface Blocks*
- *Cloth Toys*
- *Crayons*
- *Anything that does not air dry within 10 minutes of sanitation solution*

As more developments occur regarding the COVID-19 public health crisis, we will continue to evaluate how we move forward with programming and supporting the community. We will continue to monitor and follow new guidelines from the local, state, and federal agencies. Thank you for patience and understanding.

If you are in need of childcare and are not already registered for the 2019-2020 School Age Childcare Program, you may still register at
<https://www.fwymca.org/may-school-care-options>

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local YMCA.