

WHAT'S NEW WITH COVID-19

*Updated May 20, 2021

**These policies and procedures are subject to change as new information or best practices evolve and change from local health department, the OEC & CDC. **

The Darien YMCA Child Care Programs are licensed by the CT Office of Early Childhood (OEC). Working with the OEC, CDC, and the Darien Health Department, we have put together a set of guidelines and procedures that must be adhered to by ALL students, staff and parents in order to provide the safest experience for everyone.

Masks: COVID-19 Mask Requirement 05/20/2021

As per the new [guidelines](#) from the OEC, all children 3 years of age and older and staff are required to wear a face mask while in a child care program while indoors only. Masks may be removed when outdoors.

As Vacation Camp falls under the OEC guidance and licensing we must comply with this new regulation and have created the below policy that complies with this new regulation.

1) Type of mask

- a. All masks must meet CDC guidelines, children must wear a mask with two or more layers, CDC does not recommend the use of gaiters or face shields, masks with vent systems will not be permitted. We highly recommend masks with ear loops rather than over the head straps, this will make it easy for them to take them off and put them on.
- b. Please make sure you label your child's mask with their name.
- c. We suggest a second one in their school bag in case they need to swap out during the day.

2) Non-compliance by children as they adjust to wearing masks will be handled by:

- a. Gently reminding the children frequently throughout the day
- b. Photo reminders will be placed around the rooms
- c. We will be working with the children from the social emotional aspects of having to wear a mask using the guidance from the OEC and our social worker. Here is a link to help you all with this transition.

<https://www.ctoec.org/supporting-children-and-families-during-covid-19/>

3) When they have to wear the mask

- a. The children will be required to wear masks when inside the building but will be permitted to remove them when outside.
- b. The children will not be required to wear masks while they are in swim.
- c. There will be mask breaks throughout the day. Children will be allowed to sit in designated areas of the room, socially distanced from the rest of the group, where they will be allowed to take their masks off throughout the day.

- 4) Parent(s) or guardian(s) who refuse to abide by this new regulation, as per the [Executive Order 9](#) - from Governor Lamont and the OEC regulation, will be asked to keep their children at home until such a time as they (the parent) are willing for their child to comply.

Drop off & Pick Up:

Drop Off: Due to Covid-19 we are limiting access to our school wing to only teachers and students. Children will be dropped off in the drop off circle and our staff will take your child from their car to their Vacation Camp classroom. Drop off is 8:55 – 9:10 AM.

Pick Up: Parents will not be allowed to come into the building to pick up their child. When you arrive at the Darien YMCA, you will pull into the Drop off Circle and call the Youth Cell Phone at (203) 415-0361. Let the staff know the child's name and grade. The child will then be brought out to the car. Pick Up for Half Day Preschool is at 1:00 PM. Pick up for Full Day Preschool – 5th Grade is 3:50 – 4:00 PM.

If you are dropping off late or picking up early, please call the Youth Cell Phone at (203) 415-0361.

Sick Child/Staff:

- If someone begins to feel ill while at the YMCA, they will be brought to the Directors office privately to be evaluated
- Sick person will be isolated, student or staff will be required to leave the YMCA if a temperature over 100.0 is recorded. If a fever is present and the ill person is sent home, they will be allowed to return **after being 48 hours fever free without the aid of medicine** so long as:
 - no other COVID related symptoms become present
 - they pass the health screening in the morning
- Other illnesses such as cough will be evaluated on a case by case basis
- If we are informed of a positive COVID-19 test, an email will be sent to the families of that group
- The YMCA will follow CDC guidance on how to disinfect our building or facility if someone is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- We will contact the OEC and the local health department to guide us through the risk assessment and contact tracing process
- We will exclude the child(ren) and staff member(s) who are determined to have had close contact with the affected child/staff member for 14 days after the last day they had contact with the affected child/staff member.
- If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 and tests positive within one week of leaving any YMCA program, please inform us so we can help with community contact tracing.

Reportable Cases

COVID-19 was added to the List of Reportable Diseases. Those required to report such diseases must report cases of COVID-19 infection immediately to the Connecticut Department of Public Health and to the local department of health in

the town of residence of the case-patient by telephone on the day of recognition or strong suspicion of the disease. The COVID19 report form is available on the DPH website at <https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/Covid/InitiateCovidReport>

As is the case with any other year, we will defer to our on call physician consultant, Dr. Philip Negus of Stamford Medical Group in Darien, if a judgement call needs to be made on specific and immediate health related decisions.

Injuries

For injuries unrelated to illness, the Director will treat them according to our general "standing orders". The Director will use appropriate PPE and follow cleaning protocols in between students for all cases of illness and injury. Please note: The health and safety of all our families relies on the honesty and intentionality of how we treat illness and suspected illness. We will be honest with you and do our best to keep your students safe, but it will take all of us acting responsibly with abundant caution to make it possible.

At Home Precautions

We are asking that all staff and children adhere to the following guidelines for at home precautions:

- Come to the YMCA each day with freshly laundered clothes, including outerwear if necessary
- Wash hands, shower, and clean soft surfaces immediately like towels, backpacks, lunchboxes, etc.
- Monitor if symptoms develop
- Use social distancing protocols and masks, if necessary, while in public or around people

Student & Staff Hygiene: Most classrooms at the YMCA have sinks in them as well as bathrooms close by. Teachers will also have plenty of hand sanitizer for their group. Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon entering the YMCA, in between activities, before and after lunch & snack, before and after using shared equipment and after sneezing, coughing or blowing their nose.

Enhanced Cleaning: We will be enhancing our cleaning and sanitizing procedures throughout the YMCA. These procedures will be consistent with best practice and guidelines presented by the CDC, the OEC, Y-USA, and local health. We will update cleaning procedures, as necessary.

Groups will be given a set of supplies to use to minimize the use of shared equipment with other groups. This individual groups supplies will be cleaned as necessary and again at the end of the week. Before using any supplies, all children and staff will wash or sanitize their hands and will continue to do so throughout the day. Any activity that requires shared equipment between groups will have an appropriate and specific cleaning policy that meets the aforementioned standards.

Bathrooms: Our staff will clean and disinfect the bathrooms periodically throughout the day

Please note and understand that any other the above mentioned policies may change or be added to, based on guidance from the local health, state health departments, Y Alliance, Office of Early Childhood or otherwise determined by the Directors of the Darien YMCA to promote and maintain the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and members.