

7-23-20

Dear Parents,

We are having an amazing and delightful Summer with your children. We're grateful to be operating safely during the pandemic. Unfortunately, this public health crisis has given the Summer an uneasy undertone. In Utah, the positive rate of coronavirus cases - of those who have been tested - has stayed around 11% this Summer. That tells me that the virus is sticking around for a while, so we need to stay on top of our game to keep slowing the spread. This letter will explain what we're doing at school, what expectations we have of you -our Wonderbloom families- and what the Health Department requires.

We thank you for following protocols for drop-off by maintaining social distance and wearing masks. It's important for you to know that at Wonderbloom we take this virus seriously. I want to acknowledge that potential spread of illness is inherent in running a child care program. At Wonderbloom, we do many things in order to lessen the risks such as health screenings at drop-off, wash hands regularly, sanitize surfaces that are touched often, are outdoors, and have very small groups. There's another element of slowing the spread that is out of Wonderbloom's control. That is regarding what our Wonderbloom community of parents and families are doing to keep themselves safe in their own lives. You've already assumed the risk of sending your child to school. We trust that you are being cognizant of public health mandates and advice by social distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands in your daily lives.

Here are the actions that your family and the school are required to do to limit the spread of Covid at Wonderbloom:

1. **Keep a child home** if the child or any member of their household has had the following symptoms in the last 24 hours: fever, trouble breathing, cough, sore throat, muscle aches/pains, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell. *This is mandated by the Health Department for children attending a child care program.*
2. **IMPORTANT: If anyone in your household has these symptoms, has a Covid test pending, or has a Covid test result, contact Melissa 801-839-7041 or, if it's outside of office hours, contact Sarah 801-494-7894.** We may have to take steps at school based on that information, but we can only make the decision about whether or not to take steps, and which steps to take, if you've informed us.
3. **Staff stay home** if they have any of those symptoms.
4. If anyone in the household has had the above symptoms for more than 24 hours, **please get tested for Covid.** Find a testing location [here](#). There's also a [mobile testing bus](#). They recommend making an appointment to avoid waiting in line for hours.
5. If a child or staff member starts showing symptoms while at school, we immediately separate them from the group and send them home.
6. If a child, household member, or staff has a positive Covid test, **we contact the Health Department** and ask what actions need to be taken. Depending on the circumstance, we have to take different actions. We might not have to take any action, but on the other

hand, we might have to alert everyone that was in contact with Covid-positive individual and instruct them to self-quarantine for 14 days. *When we alert families of a positive case, we always keep the individual's information confidential.*

We know many of you have been proactive in keeping your children home, informing us of symptoms, and getting tested, and we really appreciate it! It may seem overly cautious to keep a child at home solely if their family member has symptoms, but the Health Department explained to me that children are more likely to be asymptomatic and so extra precautions must be taken. Unless the child develops symptoms, the Health Department tends to assume the child is asymptomatic and takes actions accordingly.

As a policy, in the past we have only contacted families if we are aware of a confirmed case of a reportable illness. We've been rethinking this policy, because coronavirus is extremely contagious and we're in the midst of a global pandemic. Therefore, in order to help you make decisions about your child's safety, we are updating our policy to state that in addition to notifying families of a positive case, **we will also inform you of symptoms, pending tests, or negative tests. As always, no identifying information will be used.** This means that you'll be getting a lot of emails, but we hope that this new policy gives you peace of mind to trust that our program is doing all we can to help you make the best decisions you can to keep your family healthy. I realize that there may be some trepidation in telling us about symptoms or tests, because you don't want to be "that" person that causes other people inconvenience or undue worry. We would rather have inconveniences and worries if it means keeping everyone safe! I think we can all agree that it's better to be extra cautious than to accidentally spread the virus. I would rather close down the school "just in case" than stay open and potentially cause harm to our young students. If (or perhaps "when") we do have positive cases in our Wonderbloom community, we're going to be supportive, concerned and caring to those families, because they'll need it the most. There's no place for judgement, shame or guilt in our little community.

One last note, we have a plan in place if we have to temporarily close down unexpectedly. We will seamlessly pivot to a distance learning method of education. It's not the same as having the children on site, but it's a safe "second best" (not to mention that it's actually pretty fantastic).

Thank you for trusting your children with us and letting us share in their indelible energy and spirits!

Sincerely,
Sarah Stone, PhD
Executive Director
Alimtas Foundation