

# GLOBAL CHILDREN'S CENTER COVID-19 POLICIES

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## 1 HOW DOES GLOBAL CHILDREN'S CENTER MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT COVID-19?

GCC acts in accordance with the regulations put in place by the CDC, as well as local health authorities.

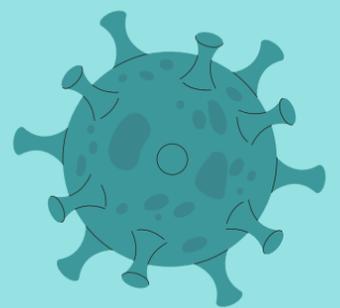
## 2 CAN YOU SPREAD COVID WITHOUT SHOWING SYMPTOMS?

Yes. If you receive a positive COVID test, you can still spread the virus - even if you are not showing any symptoms.



## 3 WHAT IS THE CRITERIA FOR CLOSING A SITE LOCATION?

In order to maintain a safe environment for your children, we follow all CDC and local health guidelines. In the event that any child and/or staff member contracts or is in contact with someone who contracts the virus, we will act in accordance with all regulations.



## 4 WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON CLOSING SCENARIOS?

- A positive COVID-19 test from one of our staff members and/or students
- A member of our staff or students is in close contact (been within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes total in a 24-hour period) with a COVID-positive person.
- The development of a COVID-like illness amongst our staff/students.



## 5 HOW LIKELY IS GLOBAL TO CLOSE?

With the uncertain nature of the virus, there is no way of knowing when a student or staff member might contract it. Global will continue to do our best to keep our students and staff safe, as well as keeping parents updated about any COVID-19 developments in our programs.

## 6 DOES GLOBAL HAVE THE NECESSARY CLEANING SUPPLIES?

Yes. Our staff works hard to keep all equipment clean and sanitary. Social distancing is maintained when possible, and the number of people who have access to the classroom is limited in order to help keep our environment clean and sanitary.



## 7 WHAT HAPPENS IF A TEACHER OR A STAFF MEMBER BELIEVES THEY HAD DIRECT EXPOSURE TO THE VIRUS?

We will do our best to work with this teacher/staff member to gather details about how/when they could have come into contact with the virus. We require the teacher/staff member to remain at home until they can provide a negative COVID test result.



## 8 IS VACCINATION A REQUIREMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH GLOBAL?

Yes, all of our employees are required to be fully vaccinated.

## 9 WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD STAY HOME?

- Your child should stay home if they:
  - Have a positive COVID-19 test
  - Come into close contact with a COVID-positive person
  - Live with someone who has contracted COVID-19
  - Live with someone has COVID-like symptoms



## 10 IS MY CHILD REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK?

Yes. Children are required to wear masks while indoors. They are free to take them off while outside of the classroom.

# Global Children's Center Safety Protocols



## 1 EMPLOYEES



- All GCC employees are fully vaccinated and are required to wear masks indoors
- GCC employees follow social-distancing protocols in all instances where possible
- The number of employees with access to each classroom is limited with a staff-to-child ratio of 1:14 and a maximum group size of 15

## CLEANING

## 2



- Toys and other materials will be washed and sanitized before being used by another "Global Group."
- Cleaning toys frequently, especially items that have been in a child's mouth or if a child coughs or sneezes on them.
- Setting aside toys that need to be cleaned.
- Cleaning toys with soapy water, rinse them, sanitize them with a CDC-recommended disinfectant, rinse again, and air-dry.
- Providing duplicates of toys and multiple sets of materials to limit the number of children touching the same objects.
- Temporarily removing toys and materials from the classroom which cannot be easily cleaned or sanitized between use.

## 3 GLOBAL GROUPS

- We will limit the mixing of groups by staggering times for outdoor play and other activities where children from multiple groups are typically combined.
- If restrooms are shared by children from different groups, they will be disinfected between use by different groups.
- We will continue to serve meals in the APR (all purpose room)/Dining Hall, but we will stagger mealtimes to limit exposure.
- We will adjust staffing patterns to have each staff member exposed to as few groups as possible, while still ensuring there is adequate coverage for breaks, etc.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

## 4

- Rearranging furniture to section off play spaces and maintain 6-foot separation, when possible.
- Limiting the number of children in one space at a time (e.g., utilizing our "learning zones").
- Using designated markers on the floor to indicate spaces to line up.
- Planning activities that do not require close physical contact between individual children.
- Incorporating additional outside time as much as feasible.
- Encouraging children to use alternate greetings or shows of affection that limit physical contact (e.g., waving, air hugs, or high fives).
- Canceling or postponing special events that convene larger groups.

# Global Children's Center COVID-19 Policies

## WHAT GUIDELINES DOES GLOBAL CHILDREN'S CENTER (GCC) FOLLOW DURING COVID-19?

- **GCC follows the regulations and guidelines put in place by...**
  - Center for Disease Control (the CDC)
  - Maryland Department of Health
  - Maryland State Department of Education
  - Montgomery County Disease Control (local health department)
- **... to ensure the safest COVID-19 protocols.**
- Global Children's Center monitors absences among children and staff according to the guidelines of the organizations above.



## IN WHAT SITUATIONS DOES GLOBAL CHILDREN'S CENTER CLOSE?

CLOSED

1. There was someone (childcare staff, child, or another person) with a **lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive test** result who was present in the childcare program building AND had close contact with staff and/or children.
2. There was someone (childcare staff, child, or another person) with a **COVID-19-like symptoms or illness** who was present in the childcare program building AND had close contact with program staff and/or children.

## The following COVID-19-like symptoms or illness could result in a closure:

- New **cough or shortness of breath...**
  - OR
- **At least 2 of the following:**
  - Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
  - Chills and/or shivering
  - Muscle pain
  - Sore throat
  - Headache
  - Loss of sense of taste or smell
  - Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea)



## When will we receive guidance/instruction after a closure?

- GCC is **committed** to keeping you and your children safe.
- **Updates** about continued closures or reopenings will be **delivered promptly** after consultation with the local health department.
- In order to keep your children safe, Global will then **inform families of the situation** and the recommendations for action provided by the local health department.

## What guidelines should parents follow in terms of reporting illnesses?

- Parents are **expected** to report any illnesses in their household.
- This is **necessary** in order to keep all children and staff safe and for GCC to make appropriate decisions relating to closures.

## DO I GET CHARGED TUITION IF GLOBAL IS CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS AND WILL MY CHILD'S SPOT BE HELD?

- For a **72-hour center closure**, tuition will not be suspended so that we can continue to pay our teachers.
- For a **14-day family-specific isolation**, tuition can be suspended, but your child's spot cannot be held or guaranteed. If you choose to continue your tuition payments, we will hold your child's spot.
- For a **14-day full-center closure**, tuition will be suspended, and your child's spot is held.



## NOTE:

If the person with a confirmed COVID-19 case or a COVID-19-like illness is a **parent** (or another household member) of a GCC child, and their **only close contact** with the Global staff and/or children were with **their own child**, the program may not be required to close if the affected parent's child is **asymptomatic**. This means that they are not showing any COVID symptoms.



# Global Children's Center COVID-19 Policies Contd.



## Logistics, Extra Information & Resources

### How would we be notified about Global closures, guidance, and reopening?



- Notifications about GCC closures, protocols, and reopenings will be shared via email, the GCC website (for closures lasting longer than 72 hours), text alerts, and social media postings.
- Please remember - COVID-19 exposures and risks cause uncertainty. We may not be able to tell you how long a closure may be right away, and we thank you for your patience and understanding.
- For closures lasting only 48-72 hours, the website may not always be up to date because of how quickly these circumstances can evolve. In these cases, your center director will be in close communication with you about these updates.

### How can I help keep my child safe?

- For drop-off and pick-up: Families will drop off and pick up their child from a designated classroom. Parents are NOT ALLOWED to enter the classroom.
- In the event that you need to enter, we ask that you limit your time inside the classroom to less than 5 minutes to limit exposure.
- We follow the CDC guidance regarding masks. All adults are required to wear masks inside all of our classrooms, and at the drop-off and pick-up locations.
- Fully vaccinated staff have the option to remove their mask outside while maintaining social distance guidelines.
- Everyone who enters the building will need to wash their hands. Hand sanitizers are available throughout the classroom.
- Travel: Global abides by the CDC's guidance around COVID protocols in regards to travel. If you travel to states/areas of concern, you will need to follow CDC guidance for quarantining yourself and your family before returning to Global.

### What are Global Children's Center's Screening Policies?

## GLOBAL COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

ENTRY IS LIMITED TO **CHILDREN & STAFF ONLY**. HEALTH SCREENING COMPLETION IS **REQUIRED** PRIOR TO ENTRY. ANYONE PERMITTED TO ENTER IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A DAILY HEALTH CHECK, IN ADDITION TO OUR GENERAL EXCLUSION CRITERIA WILL BE EXCLUDED FOR THE FOLLOWING:



TEMPERATURE OF 100.4 OR HIGHER OR CHILLS



COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH



NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL



MUSCLE PAIN



NAUSEA / VOMITTING / DIARRHEA



RUNNY NOSE



SORE THROAT

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Coronavirus Disease 2019 – Coping with Stress
  - [https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/stress-coping/cope-with-stress/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fdaily-life-coping%2Fmanaging-stress-anxiety.html](https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/stress-coping/cope-with-stress/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fdaily-life-coping%2Fmanaging-stress-anxiety.html)
- Calm Your Child's Coronavirus Fears -Children's Mental Health Matters Campaign
  - <https://www.childrensmentalhealthmatters.org/2020/03/13/calm-your-childs-coronavirus-fears/>
- Mental Health Mondays – Resiliency, self-care, grief, working and learning from home, stress, and anxiety - Children's Mental Health Matters Campaign
  - <https://www.childrensmentalhealthmatters.org/resources/mentalhealthmondays/>
- COVID-19 and Your Mental Health - Mayo Clinic
  - <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/mental-health-covid-19/art-20482731>
- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): FAQs About Mental Health - Maryland Department of Health
  - [https://www.every-mind.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID19\\_MDH\\_Maintaining\\_Mental\\_Health.pdf](https://www.every-mind.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID19_MDH_Maintaining_Mental_Health.pdf)
- COVID-19 Resource and Information Guide - National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
  - <https://www.nami.org/Support-Education/NAMI-HelpLine/COVID-19-Information-and-Resources/COVID-19-Resource-and-Information-Guide>
- How Mindfulness Can Help During COVID-19
  - [https://childmind.org/article/how-mindfulness-can-help-during-covid-19/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=%20Parents%20Guide%20to%20Problem%20Behavior&utm\\_campaign=Weekly-03-03-20](https://childmind.org/article/how-mindfulness-can-help-during-covid-19/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=%20Parents%20Guide%20to%20Problem%20Behavior&utm_campaign=Weekly-03-03-20)

Due to the ever-changing conditions around the COVID-19 virus, our policies and procedures will be constantly updating and evolving. Please continue to give us your valuable feedback in order for us to provide you with the best services.

Contact email: [ProgramDirector@GlobalChildrensCenter.com](mailto:ProgramDirector@GlobalChildrensCenter.com)