Enhanced Guidance for Daycare Centers
March 16, 2020

The Winnebago County Health Department has recommended that public gatherings be limited to 25 or less. Daycare Centers are not considered public gatherings; however, additional recommendations are being implemented to limit the transmission of COVID-19 in the community for daycares effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

- Do not enroll or accept new children in the daycare center until further notice.
- Suspend all before-school and after-school care programs consistent with the Governor’s Directive regarding school closures in the state of Illinois.
- Post signage outside the entrance of the facility to restrict entrance into the facility of anyone with illness.
- Communicate with families and staff that exclusion criteria for illness will be strictly enforced.
- Check all daycare staff for fever at the beginning of their reported work period and day care centers must maintain records of monitoring.
- Monitor children daily for signs/symptoms of COVID-19:
  - Fever
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
- Exclude any staff or child with sign/symptoms of COVID-19 from the daycare setting.
- Promptly isolate any staff or child with symptoms and don a face/procedure mask. If the child cannot tolerate a face/procedure mask, the staff that is assigned to them should wear the face/procedure mask. Limit the staff to one (1:1) to care for children who have been isolated.
- Cohort children and daycare staff. Keep children in the same group with the same staff every day including meal, snack, rest, and play periods.
- Stagger drop-offs and pick-ups to avoid crowding of children and parents/guardians in confined spaces.
- Limit parents/guardians to one (1) per child during drop-off and pick-up times.
- Prohibit all outside visitors to the daycare for activities regardless of their security clearance. Note: This does not apply to maintenance/repair workers. However a log is to be maintained of all outside visitors by date/time to include contact information with name, phone, cell, and email.
- Monitor and enforce strict hand hygiene among all staff and children.
- Teach children to sneeze and/or cough into their sleeves.
- For additional information, please see https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools-faq.html.

During this stressful time for families including your own, please remember to play and have fun!

Thank you for caring for the children in our community.