



July 1, 2020

Dear Extend-A-Care YMCA Parents and Guardians,

First, let me thank you for your support and understanding as we, as a nation and community, continue to respond to the unprecedented circumstances that COVID-19 presents. As we navigate these extraordinary times, I want to share some information about emergency closings of childcare facilities. We know the importance of childcare and the disruption that a change of plans can cause you and your families, and we are making every effort to ensure continuity during this time. However, as you may know, Extend-A-Care YMCA's facilities are owned by the school district where they are housed, and Extend-A-Care YMCA does not control decisions to close the entire facilities due to a potential COVID-19 exposure, even when it occurs in areas of the school that our students and staff do not use. We generally do not get notice about the school district's decision to close a campus until late in the day or early morning. **I would like to take this opportunity to share with you that Extend-A-Care has and will continue to notify the individuals identified by the parent/guardian as soon as possible after Extend-A-Care YMCA receives notice that a facility has been closed.** In order to make sure you receive that information in a timely manner, we recommend that you:

1. Update your contact information. You can register a cell phone number and email address for two parents/guardians.
2. Check your email/cell for any notices on the night before your child is scheduled to attend Extend-A-Care YMCA.
3. Check your email/cell for any notices in the morning before you take your child to Extend-A-Care YMCA. We do our best to avoid morning notices, but please know that if you receive one, we have sent that information out as soon as we received notice from the school district.
4. Prepare for alternative arrangements. These are stressful times for many parents. The whereabouts and safety of children are our paramount concern. The best advice we can give is to work on developing a network of support that can react and adjust to changing conditions when COVID-19 causes problems. We will do our best to keep childcare facilities open, and your account will always be credited back for any day we are closed due to COVID-19. We will not be able to provide alternate care arrangements.

It is imperative that all families are as transparent as possible during daily screenings. If a child has been in contact with an individual who has a confirmed case, then the child must quarantine for 14 days from the exposure date. If at any time your child begins to show any COVID-19 related symptoms and/or receives a positive test result, we ask that you notify your physician and EAC Y staff immediately. COVID-19 symptoms consist of cough, fever, sore throat, chills, muscle aches, loss of smell, loss of taste, shortness of breath, vomiting, and/or diarrhea.

As I mentioned, entire school closures are often due to a potential exposure on the campus that does not affect our program. Regardless of what may happen in other parts of the campus, we want you to know we are committed to taking the necessary precautions to keep our students, staff, and parents safe.

We are in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Austin Public Health Department, and Health and Human Services (state licensing), and we are following recommended guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to: requiring staff members to wear masks when in the building, implementing social distancing measures, conducting regular deep cleaning with EPA-approved disinfectants, screening for COVID-19 symptoms, and enforcing frequent handwashing procedures. We understand the concern and inconvenience that COVID-19 may cause, and we are committed to ensuring the safety of all children in our care while we provide an enriching and engaging experience. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Altobelli
Vice President of Licensed Child Care Services
Extend-A-Care YMCA