



BAMBINI COVID-RELATED PROTOCOL

Bambini is closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic, including specific guidelines for childcare facilities, at the local and federal levels.

We recognize that all CDC's will encounter challenges to their daily operation under these unprecedented circumstances but remain committed to foster the safest possible environment to our children, their families and staff.

We will continue adapting our service settings as much as possible to align with public health recommendations, as we've been doing it since re-opening back on June 1st, 2020.

These are our New Guidelines, based on the Center for Disease Control Guidelines for Child Development Centers. They are divided in Four Categories:

A) SOCIAL DISTANCING STRATEGIES

B) INFECTION CONTROL AND SANITATION PRACTICES

C) MODIFYING DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

D) ENFORCING STRICT SICK POLICY GUIDELINES

A) SOCIAL DISTANCING IN CHILD CARE SETTINGS

We will implement small group activities and encourage individual play/activities. For example, if the class has 8 children, we will break into two small groups, and designate space in the classroom for individual play. In infant classrooms, we will keep the non-mobile infants separate from the mobile infants and implement small group, focused activities with this group.

Since Bambini opened its first program back in 2013, and with the purpose of ensuring socio-emotional stability for all children, we have always kept the same small group of children together throughout the day, we've never combined groups (e.g., at opening and closing) and we've maintained the same groups from day-to-day.

These are all recommended practices to help reduce potential exposures and may prevent an entire program from shutting down if exposure does occur.

For all children who walk: a pair of indoor shoes will be required and will be kept inside each child's cubby to be worn once the child arrives in the morning and throughout the day. Outdoors shoes will be placed into specific cubbies placed at the entrance of the suite or classroom where they will be kept until the child is getting ready to go outside or when he/she leaves the program at the end of the day.

Staff in ALL our classrooms will be required to have indoor and outdoor shoes as well.

Activity Recommendations

How to explain for a child's understanding: "social distancing" and "physical boundaries" and "personal boundaries"? Below are some good resource links:

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus>

<https://www.brainson.org/shows/2020/03/10/understanding-coronavirus-and-how-germs-spread-for-kids>

We:

- Plan activities that do not require close physical contact between children.
- Set up individual play activity stations, i.e. art, puzzles, and reading.
- Eliminate large group activities. Avoid gathering in larger groups for any reason.
- Limit the number of children in each program space.
- Increase the distance between children during table work as much as possible.

- Limit item sharing, and if items are being shared, remind children not to touch their faces and wash their hands after using these items. Limit shared teaching materials to those that can be easily cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day or more often as needed.
- Playdough cannot be cleaned or sanitized, so will label individual containers with names, or discontinue use.
- Refrain from the use of water or sensory tables.
- Minimize time standing in lines.

Social Distancing for adults, including parents and staff.

- All adults will be encouraged to stay 6 feet away from each other, including staff and parents. There will be signage and other reminders to facilitate this task.

B) INFECTION CONTROL AND SANITATION PRACTICES

All our staff as well as our children two years and older, will be wearing a face mask until further notice. This is based on a requirement from the District of Columbia's Department of Education.

Intensified cleaning and disinfection efforts:

All our classrooms and common spaces are sanitized and disinfected daily by a specialized cleaning company with years of experience in cleaning services for CDC's. This company is also providing a daily Covid disinfecting service of our entire centers, using products that are approved by the EPA and are safe for babies and young children.

In addition, we routinely clean, sanitize, and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games. This includes cleaning objects/surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, nap pads, toilet training potties, desks, chairs and cubbies.

Clean and Sanitize Toys:

Toys that can be put in the mouth are cleaned and sanitized. Other hard surfaces, including diaper changing stations, doorknobs, and floors are disinfected.

Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used.

Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions are set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. We clean those with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with an EPA-registered disinfectant, rinse again, and air-dry.

We don't share toys between groups of infants or toddlers. Toys are assigned to each individual classroom.

Children's books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.

Clean and Disinfect Bedding:

All bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets) is washed often and consistently. We keep each child's bedding separate. Cribs, cots and mats are labeled for each child. Bedding that touches a child's skin is cleaned weekly or as needed.

Caring for Infants and Toddlers

Diapering:

Teachers and babies wash hands before starting the diapering procedure and staff wears gloves. We follow safe diaper changing procedures. Procedures are posted in all diaper changing areas. Steps include:

- Prepare (includes putting on gloves)
- Clean the child
- Remove trash (soiled diaper and wipes)
- Replace diaper
- Wash child's hands
- Clean up diapering station
- Wash hands

After diapering, staff washes their hands (even if they were wearing gloves) as well as the baby's hands. Staff disinfects the diapering area with a fragrance-free bleach that is EPA-registered as a sanitizing or disinfecting solution. If other products are used for sanitizing or disinfecting, they will also be fragrance-free and EPA-registered. If the surface is dirty, it will be cleaned with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Washing, Feeding, or Holding a Child:

It is important to comfort crying, sad, and/or anxious infants and toddlers, and they often need to be held. To the extent possible, when washing, feeding, or holding very young children: providers protect themselves by wearing an over-large button-down, long sleeved shirt and by wearing long hair up off the collar in a ponytail or other updo.

Childcare providers wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child's secretions.

Childcare providers change the child's clothes if secretions are on the child's clothes. They change the button-down shirt, if there are secretions on it, and wash their hands again.

Contaminated clothes are placed in a plastic bag until washed.

Infants, toddlers, and their providers have multiple changes of clothes on hand in the childcare center.

Childcare providers wash their hands before and after handling infant bottles prepared at home or prepared in the facility.

Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior

All children, staff, and volunteers engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

- Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- Before and after preparing food or drinks
- Before and after eating or handling food, or feeding children
- Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
- Before and after diapering
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After handling garbage

Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available.

Assist children with handwashing, including infants who cannot wash hands alone.

After assisting children with handwashing, staff will also wash their hands.

Posters describing handwashing steps are placed near sinks in all classes and bathrooms.

Washing hands and sanitizing surfaces are the most important things we can do now!

We also have installed floor hand-sanitizers at all our centers' entrances and near classrooms.

In addition, we:

- Advise children, families, and staff to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and clean hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer (if soap and water are not readily available).
- Provide adequate supplies for good hygiene, including clean and functional handwashing stations, soap, paper towels, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

For all children who walk: a pair of indoor shoes are required and will be kept inside each child's cubby to be worn once the child arrives in the morning and throughout the day. When it is time to leave, teachers will assist in changing the child's shoes to the ones they were wearing when they arrived at the center in the morning.

Staff in all our classrooms are required to have indoor and outdoor shoes as well.

We will follow these guidelines for our facility:

https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page_content/attachments/Health_Guidance_For_Childcare_5.25.21.pdf

C) MODIFYING DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES:

With the purpose of increasing social distancing and reducing the amount of exposure, babies and children are received at the main door by one of our staff.

The drop-off and pick-ups at our centers take place at the main doors of each facility or suite in the case of the Federal Triangle location.

The staff in charge of welcoming each child will measure the temperature of the baby/child and their parent at each drop-off. A touchless thermometer will be used for that purpose.

Children who have a fever of 100.0 F or above or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the facility. We require parents to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children (or themselves) and to keep them home when they are sick.

Pick-ups will be allowed between 4 PM and 5:50 PM as the process requires more coordination among various staff members. Children are being brought to the main doors of each facility and parents are not allowed into the facility during drop off or pick up times.

Ideally, the same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child every day. If possible, older people such as grandparents or those with serious underlying medical conditions should not drop off or pick up children, because they are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Screening Upon Arrival- Directions to Staff:

Upon arrival, wash your hands and make sure you are wearing a face mask covering nose and mouth. Please make sure to use your scrub jacket as well.

Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness, and confirm that the child is not experiencing coughing or shortness of breath.

Take the child's temperature.

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol or wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

If hands are visibly soiled, soap and water should be used before using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

D) ENFORCING STRICT SICK POLICY GUIDELINES

What should we do if children, staff, or parents develop COVID-19 symptoms?

If a child has tested positive for coronavirus or has been identified as a close contact of a person with coronavirus, please follow recommendations for release from quarantine and isolation.

Experts recommend that childcare programs follow the guidance of the CDC and Federal and State officials if children, staff, or parents develop COVID-19 symptoms.

Please refer to this link for a quick guide to symptoms related to COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms.pdf>

More information on managing COVID symptoms at home here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/10Things.pdf>

We follow the guidelines established by the CDC, and other Federal and State Public Health authorities.

Children with fever (100.0 F or higher), cough, or shortness of breath must be excluded from childcare facilities and isolated from others. Children with household members who are known to have COVID-19 should be excluded from the childcare facility. If symptoms persist or worsen, parents will be notified and should call their health care provider for further guidance. Parents are required to inform the facility immediately if they or their child was diagnosed with COVID-19.

If a child or parent tests positive for COVID-19, you should contact the local health jurisdiction to identify the close contacts who will need to be quarantined. Likely, all members of the infected child's or adult's group would be considered close contacts.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 among our population we may need to close that individual classroom based on the local health department's recommendations and contact investigation. Closure and duration will be dependent on staffing levels, outbreak levels in the community, and the number of people affected within the facility.

Please refer to this CDC page for further details on guidelines Bambini will follow during this time, including the process for when/if we have a case of confirmed COVID-19 among staff, children or parent who gets in contact with our center:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

When can individuals return to a childcare program after suspected COVID-19 symptoms?

Bambini will follow the guidance of the CDC, Federal, and State officials when faced with decisions on whether or not to permit children to be readmitted to the program after suspected COVID-19 symptoms.

Time-since-illness-onset and time-since-recovery strategy (non-test-based strategy)

Persons with COVID-19 like symptoms that were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and,**
- At least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*

Despite all the aforementioned preventive measures, and regardless of any effort we can make to try to keep our locations virus-free, there exists an inherent risk in going anywhere outside of the home during this pandemic. Parents who are considering sending their children to daycare should be fully aware of that risk and make their decisions accordingly. Our intent in sharing our prevention plans with you is to help inform those decisions, but the responsibility for them ultimately rests with each family.

ILLNESS POLICY (Addition - 11/09/20)

During the pandemic, and out on an abundance of caution, we will treat every potential COVID symptom as such, unless certified otherwise by a doctor. Please be patient as we all work through this pandemic together!

Bambini will require a PCR Covid Test or Doctor's Note, by a non-relative physician, clearing the Child to be safe to return for any of the following symptoms: temperature 100 degrees or higher, chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, unidentified rashes, congestion or runny nose (this symptom by itself can be indicative of COVID), nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.

Staff Members who experience these symptoms must obtain a negative PCR COVID test result before returning to Bambini.

For Adults and Children: before seeking testing, please confirm the type of test which will be used. Most "rapid" COVID tests that return results within 24 hours are antigen tests which are less reliable and not considered applicable under this policy. All DC public testing sites use PCR tests. Based on very positive experiences, Bambini recommends "Same Day Test" https://www.sameday-testing.com/?gclid=CjwKCAiAt9z-BRBCEiwA_bWv-Mi1uBhwqysOqduzxWM029_pYSTVoxS_mixvN5ABokXnclCE83KwDhoC5I4QAvD_BwE#booking

When testing after exposure to someone who has Covid, it is recommended that tests are completed not less than 5 days after the last exposure, in order to obtain accurate results.

Bambini will immediately notify parents of children who exhibit potential COVID-19 symptoms while at school, including fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Parents are expected to secure arrangements to pick-up ill children within 30-45 minutes of notification.

If a child or teacher tests positive/has COVID - the class will be notified and we'll immediately consult with the DC Department of Health for further steps which will also be communicated to the entire classroom, including parents and teachers. A separate note will be sent to all families in the center as well.

Household member tests positive/has COVID - child stays home for 2 weeks and parent and child need to present a PCR negative test result in order to come back to school.

If a child tests positive/has COVID - entire class (teachers and children) must quarantine for 2 weeks and present negative PCR test results in order to come back to school.

If a classroom teacher tests positive/has COVID - her class must quarantine for 2 weeks and teachers and children need to present negative PCR test results in order to come back to school.

If a teacher's household family member tests positive/has COVID - teacher quarantines for 2 weeks and family members and teacher need to present a negative PCR test result before the teacher is allowed to come back to school.

Bambini Policy related to Travel for Employees and Parents

June 7th, 2021

Prior to travel, Bambini Administration must receive the following information **in writing** (via email) from Families and Staff:

- Dates of travel
- Destination

Please avoid sharing this information verbally in the middle of drop-offs or pick-ups. It's very challenging to keep track of it when it's communicated that way. Feel free to reach out by phone if you have questions, but we will require a follow-up email regardless.

In accordance with the last updated OSSE Guidelines, issued May 25th, this is our Bambini Updated Travel Policy:

If the individual (including children) is unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, may return to Bambini from Domestic or International Travel after:

- 10 days from return.

OR

- PCR-COVID-19 Test (1) no earlier than 72 hours after returning home and share a written copy of results (via email or fax) before the child or staff can return to school.

If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days or is fully vaccinated (2) they may return to Bambini immediately after Domestic or International Travel, provided that they do not currently have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Please also consider risk levels and potential exposure when family or friends visit your home and remember that DC's travel policy also applies to guests visiting the District of Columbia.

(1) Before seeking testing, please confirm the type of test which will be used. Most "rapid" COVID tests that return results within 24 hours are antigen tests which are less reliable and not considered applicable under this policy. All DC public testing sites use PCR tests, but private providers may utilize antigen tests.

(2) A person is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after completion of a COVID-19 vaccination series (after the second dose of a two-dose series or after one dose of a single-dose vaccine).

Information on Testing Sites:

Same Day Testing (all ages, including infants, they are the best testing resource so far!):

https://www.sameday-testing.com/?gclid=CjwKCAiA+9z-BRBCEiWA_bWv-Mi1uBhwqysOqduzxWM029_pYSTVoxS_mixvN5ABokXnclCE83KwDhoC5I4QAvD_BwE#booking

DC Public Sites (children older than 3 years of age, teens, and adults):

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testing>

In addition, CVS Minute Clinics, Patient First, All Care Family Medicine, and Urgent Care, and Inova Health Systems offer tests as part of their services.

Please reach out with any questions, and thanks for your cooperation in keeping our Bambini Community Safe and Healthy during this fluid situation.

MENTAL HEALTH

Any guidance for handling anxiety and other concerns about exposure to COVID-19?

You will find some resources in these websites:

<https://www.virusanxiety.com/>

<https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/2020/03/how-to-bethedifference-for-people-with-mental-health-concerns-during-covid-19/>

PROGRAM CLOSURE DECISIONS AND ISSUES

When deciding whether to close the center or not:

- Follow all State guidelines and mandates regarding closure.
- Decisions to remain open or closed should be based on protecting the health and well-being of the children and families served while considering the immediate needs of the community and essential personnel.

Where to refer to if the center decides to close for emergency childcare:

- Parents who need child care may call (202) 829-2500 or visit <http://childcareconnections.osse.dc.gov/> for assistance with locating childcare programs that remain open.

Where to refer to if center closes and families require food resources:

- All children under the age of 18 are eligible to pick up food at sites across the state. Families can text FOOD or COMIDA to 877-877 and they will be asked to provide their address so they can receive information about sites nearby. They can also contact 211 or check out https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sqsMSZhzyp-eahIF2uWIK_vU5DigFcFRRL3kiIGDI4/edit#

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/ INFORMATION

These are reliable websites for ongoing updates about the COVID-19 pandemic:

Centers for Disease Control Community & Home Cleaning

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html>

DC Health Coronavirus Webpage <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>