



ANOKA COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.

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Anoka/Washington County Head Start Program

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Dear Head Start Families and Friends,

Welcome back! We have been looking forward to your return to our Head Start program.

As the state and federal management of the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to evolve, we wanted to reassure you that Head Start places the health and safety of your children and our staff as our **FIRST** priority all day every day. This communication is to make you aware of many of the things our dedicated staff are doing for your child while they are in our care.

At a Head Start center you may notice:

- A “STOP HERE” station at the Family Development Center where we conduct our required Daily Health Check for staff and families *before* staff or families enter the school building or classroom.
- Staff or children who have any signs of illness (temperature of 100.4, cough, shortness of breath) should stay home.
- Children that become sick while at school will be isolated, with supervision, while waiting to go home.
- Stringent health policies have been put in place regarding screening for a temperature and COVID-19 symptoms. Children or staff are not permitted to attend school if they have symptoms of illness.
- Drop-off/pick-up procedures have changed and are site specific.
- Parents and family members must wear masks while dropping off and picking up children.
- Non-essential visitors such as volunteers are not allowed into the center. Parents are only allowed in the buildings in an emergency and must wear a mask and have their temperature taken before entering.
- Hygiene, respiratory etiquette (covering our coughs and sneezes) and frequent handwashing (with soap and running water) will be strictly emphasized every day throughout for children and staff.
- Reduced class sizes, as determined by State of Minnesota Child Care licensing as best practice. Children will be kept in consistent groups with as much consistent staffing as possible. Minimal transferring.
- Toys and soft items in classrooms that cannot be readily sanitized/disinfected have been removed.
- “Social Distancing” will be discussed in all classrooms and how to stay safe from germs.
- Toothbrushing will no longer be conducted at school and Family Style Dining will now have staff “plating” the required food program servings for each child to minimize food contact.
- Maintenance staff are cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting high touch surfaces throughout each day using EPA and CDC approved products.
- Cleaning and sanitizing will be conducted throughout each day. Disinfecting will only be conducted when no children are present.
- Outdoor areas are sanitized daily (or more often if necessary) and class time is limited to one group at a time on the playground or in the gym.
- Staff must wear masks at all times in common areas and either a mask, face shield or both in the classroom.
- No blankets, toys or food from home may be brought to school at this time. Backpacks are permitted.
- The Head Start COVID Preparedness Plan is posted at each school site and is available for you to read upon request.
- If your child becomes sick at home, please report the illness to your child’s teacher.

Jacqueline Cross

Director

Anoka/Washington County Head Start-Early Head Start