

**Anoka/Washington County Head Start Reopening 2020
Q & A For Families**

As we welcome children back to our program, there will be several changes in place to minimize the risk of exposure or transmissions of Covid-19 with the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Anoka Washington County Head Start has updated several program policies and procedures. Below is information related to Covid-19 and some of the questions you may have.

Question	Answer
Will Head Start be opening classrooms this fall?	Yes. The tentative first day of classes is planned for September 9, 2020. There will also be the option to enroll in classroom/on-site or distance learning.
What are the classroom hours and number of days per week?	We are following the State of Minnesota guidance and limiting classroom enrollment to 10 children, 4.5 hours per day, Monday through Thursday. The classroom/on-site or distance learning program will enroll 10 children per classroom. Staff will inform you of your class time. Meals and snacks will be provided.
What if I do not want to send my child to the center/classroom? Do I have an option? If I sign up for distance learning, can I change my mind and enroll my child in a classroom?	Yes. You have the option to enroll your child in distance learning. However, whichever program option you choose when you enroll (classroom/on-site or distance learning) you may only switch one time. For instance, if you start with distance learning and want to move to classroom, if there is a slot available you could be moved but you cannot go back to virtual again. You would be moved to the wait list at that point.
Will there be a teacher for distance learning?	Yes. Your child will be assigned a teacher who will facilitate distance learning through our remote platforms such as Teaching Strategies GOLD.
How is the program going to handle drop off and pick up? What are the procedures?	Drop off and pick up will have staggered times depending on the classroom site. You will be given a time slot for you to drop off your child/children. It is important that you follow this time slot. At drop off, program staff will meet families at their classroom door to complete a Daily Health Check and COVID-19 screening, take the child's temperature and sign the child in for the day. At pick up, parents will wait at the classroom door for the children to be released. Please be patient as these processes will take additional time.
Will I be allowed in the building or classroom?	At this time we are minimizing the number of people coming into a building or classroom, however, staff will assist you if and when there is a need for you to be inside a building or classroom. You will be asked to wear a mask and your temperature will be taken when you arrive.
When and how will open house/orientation happen?	Parent orientation/open house will occur on September 3, 2020 and will be completed virtually. More information will be provided by your child's teacher. If you are unable to attend the virtual open house/orientation please contact your child's teacher, we will be glad to assist you.
Do I need to sign my child in and out each day?	Please ensure you have identification when picking up a child. You must be listed on the child's Emergency Card as an authorized person.
Will my children get to use the playground?	Yes. Children will have scheduled time with their classroom to engage in physical activity either outside or within the classroom. Each site will have a designated

	indoor gross motor area. Playgrounds and indoor gross motor areas will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily.
My child is on an Individual Education Plan, will they still receive services?	Yes. All children will continue to be screened, assessed, and referred for services as necessary. We continue to work with our local school districts for services.
If I am enrolled in Home Base will I still receive services?	Yes. Home visitors will be providing distance or virtual home visits weekly.
Will my child be taking a nap when in the classroom?	No. Naps have been eliminated this program year due to health and safety guidance from the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health.
What will classrooms do to provide social distancing?	While we cannot ensure all children will social distance, teachers will encourage it and providing reminders throughout the day for the children. Teachers will design classrooms with social distancing in mind.
My ex and I share custody and the children are with me one week and with him one week. We differ on the best option for our children. Can we attend virtual one week and classroom the other?	No. You must decide on one program option. Please also see the question about changing program options.
Will distance/virtual students be online all day?	No. Teachers will provide home activities and also engage families through face time and other internet platforms. You can access Ready Rosie at any time. We recommend no more than 30 minutes of screen time each day.
Do I need internet access?	Yes. Distance learning works best for all families if they have access to the internet or use of a data plan.
My child rides a Head Start bus, will there be safety measures on the bus?	Yes. Bussing will be operating at 50% capacity in order to allow safe distancing between children riding the bus. Whenever possible, children will be kept with the same children that were in their classroom.
Can I volunteer in my child's classroom?	No. Currently we are not allowing parents or volunteers into our building unless they are providing a service to children or families such as speech or dental.
Will face coverings or masks be mandatory?	All adults in our program are required to wear face masks in common areas. Children are not required to wear face masks. Children ages 3-5 can wear a mask at the parent's request and if the parent provides the mask.
What should I do if my child seems ill?	Please keep your child at home if they are not feeling well and contact your child's teacher.
What COVID-19 safety procedures has Head Start implemented?	All classrooms are disinfected at least daily. Maintenance staff clean, sanitize and disinfect in between as necessary. All staff receive a daily health screening and temperature check when reporting to work. All staff are required to wear face masks with children and families. Social distancing will be practiced as much as possible with the children and handwashing will be emphasized. Special electrostatic sprayers have been purchased
Will I be able to communicate with my child's teacher and assigned Family Service worker?	Absolutely! We are here for you and can communicate with you through the phone, text, or virtually. We are asking each family to provide their email or create a Google "gmail" account that would be for private communication with our program.
How would I be notified if my child's classroom is closed due to COVID-19?	Your child's teacher or assigned Family Service Worker would notify you by email, phone or text.
Should I expect classroom or center closures?	Both classroom and center closure could happen depending on the level of cases per 10,000 in each county. Classroom closures are also possible based on the

	availability of staff. Parents are advised to have alternate care arrangements as closures may occur with little notice.
How will the program handle someone testing positive for COVID-19?	We are asking all families to notify us if a member of the family is testing positive or has been exposed. Our Health Services Coordinator would immediately contact the Minnesota Department of Health for instruction on the next steps. These may include notification of the families in the affected classroom and closing that classroom for 14 days. The affected classroom would be closed for disinfecting. In all situations, the program will follow the guidance provided by the Minnesota Department of Health.
What other changes are taking place?	Evening family events and field trips have been eliminated. The Head Start Policy Council meetings will take place virtually. Home visits and parent/teacher conferences will also be held virtually.