

COVID-19 Parent Handbook



**Little People's Greater Life
and
Clear Lake Child Care**

To Little People's Greater Life and Clear Lake Child Care Child Care families, friends and local community:

Like most people in our community, LPGL AND CLCC has been paying close attention to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Thankfully, our hardworking staff is equipped to work efficiently to continue operating and taking proper precautions during these uncertain times. We want to assure parents and families in LPGL AND CLCC that we have been in contact with our local and state health department. As always, our focus is to ensure the safety of all our children, teachers, and parents and to continue to educate our children with minimal disruption.

We've always stood on our pillars of support, education, advocacy and awareness, and we know these things are especially important to you right now. That is why in addition to continuing our normal operations, we want to share with you other resources you may find helpful during this time. With social distancing recommendations, it's more important than ever to surround yourself with support, encouragement and recognize that your normal routine may be disrupted, including habits related to your health and wellness. Over the next couple of weeks, we will share plenty of health education to help you maintain healthy habits while creating a positive environment for children.

At the center of LPGL AND CLCC's purpose is a commitment to educate and support, and it's something we take to heart at all times.

– Little People's Greater Life and Clear Lake Child Care

COVID SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of COVID-19 in Children

- Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms.
- Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

Due to the high exposure of COVID-19 in Harris County, LPGL AND CLCC is taking proper precautions and requiring all children presenting COVID-19 symptoms, to stay home or provide a doctor note. The purpose of the doctors note, is to provide proof that some of the symptoms may be allergies. If the child is showing symptoms, we are required to send them home if we are not provided a doctor note.

***Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

COVID PRECAUTIONS

COVID-19 Precautions implemented by LPGL AND CLCC are to ensure a safe environment for our children, families, and teachers!

- Implementing social distancing strategies
- Intensifying cleaning and disinfection efforts

Regular disinfecting of the common areas, particularly busy locations such as restrooms, doorknobs, seating, and dining areas

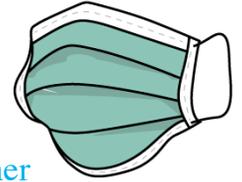
- Diaper changing procedures
- Washing, feeding, and caring procedures
- Feeding and Food Prep procedures
- Modifying drop off and pick up procedures
- Implementing screening procedures up arrival

Employees and children with a fever, cold, or flu-like symptoms such as a cough, sore throat, infected runny nose, or body aches are required to stay home. Daily temperatures are required three times a day for all employees and children

- Masks are required for all employees entering/exiting and for those having minimal interaction at the door
- Children regularly wash their hands and sanitizer is easily accessible at all times
- Ensure all children and teachers have extra change of clothes
- Constant communication to families and teachers
- Updated immunization records for each child
- Resources provided by CDC and Health and Human Services Commission



COVID SOCIAL DISTANCING



Each class is considered a “family.” Each “family” will social distance from other “families” to assure safety. Children will not need to wear a mask as we are implementing social distancing strategies and regular disinfecting/sanitizing. Classes will be with the same teachers as much as possible. When teachers leave the building or open the doors, they are required to wear a mask to the best of their ability.

How can we promote social distancing with young children and keep children 6 feet apart?

- Implement small group activities and encourage individual play/activities.
- Consider using unconventional, but safe spaces i.e., common areas with enough space to accommodate a small group, if they are large enough.
- Physically rearrange the room to promote individual play.
- Feed children in their individual classes.
- Stagger recess and play outside one classroom at a time.
- Keep the same small group of children together throughout the day. To the degree possible, maintain the same groups from day to day. This will help reduce potential exposures and may prevent an entire program from shutting down if exposure does occur.
- Spread children out within the classroom.

Activity Recommendations

- Explain for a child’s understanding: “social distancing” and “physical boundaries” and “personal boundaries.”
- Plan activities that do not require close physical contact between children.
- Refrain from activities that promote touching or closeness (circle time, handholding, center play, etc.).
- Set up individual play activity stations, i.e. art, puzzles, and reading.
- Eliminate large group activities.
- Limit the number of children in each program space.
- Increase the distance between children during table work.
- Limit item sharing

Should we keep adults and children 6 feet away from each other?

Social distancing should be practiced to the maximum extent while still allowing for the care of children. Encourage all adults to stay 6 feet away from each other, including staff and parents, using signage and other reminders.

COVID SCREENING and DROP OFF/PICK UP

Face masks are required to enter our building. Essential personnel only.

LPGL AND CLCC ensures triage procedures are compliant with HIPAA guidance and consider a multi-step screening process to ensure children and individuals with symptoms are not missed prior to entering the childcare center.

- Ask all parents and children upon entry to the facility if they have a fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19
- Check temperatures of each individual before allowing them inside
- Post alerts such as signs and posters at clinic entrances and in strategic places around the facility with instructions
- Take note of temperatures, symptoms, and notes for each individual

Considerations for Staff

LPGL AND CLCC makes staff members who are screening children and individuals remain 6 feet away from the children and individuals until screening determines a children and individuals is symptom free and afebrile while wearing a facemask or cloth face covering (for source control) but do not need to wear PPE.

After Individuals are Screened

- Provide adults with a cloth face covering or facemask (if not already wearing one from home and supplies allow), educate them on proper placement of mask, and instruct them to leave it on while they are in the facility
- Immediately after departure of individuals from the center, disinfect surfaces that were within 6 feet of the children or adults
 - This is in addition to the regular (frequent) baseline cleaning and disinfection process that should be occurring for the entire waiting area

Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Our center is operational from 6:00am – 6:30pm, Monday through Friday. All children must be dropped off by 9/10 am. If you see another family being checked in, please be children and individuals during this time.

- Hand hygiene stations will be set up at the entrance of the facility, so that children can clean their hands before they enter and keep hand sanitizer out of children's reach and supervise use.
- Childcare teachers will greet children outside as they arrive and depart.
- Pick-up times will be staggered to allow for safe social distancing. If you see another family being helped, please be children and individuals until it is your turn. Anyone talking or in close range of our teachers must wear a face covering/mask. A teacher will bring any children to the front door for drop off and pickup.
- 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 pick up children, because they are more at risk for COVID-19.

Admission/Exclusion due to symptoms of COVID-19

Children who show a cough, runny nose, fever, sore throat, rash, lose Bm, any stomach discomfort, or any other signs of COVID 19 will not be admitted to the program. If your child has allergies, please provide a Physicians note WEEKLY, until they are allergy free in order to attend. It is a risk to other children and staff members at our facility. If you have any doubts about your child's health, please call us at 281-332-8939 to be sure they may attend. If your child appears to be sick or has any of the above while at school, we will notify the parent or guardian immediately, and it is necessary that the child be picked up within 30 minutes to an hour of notification.

The child will be permitted to return when his/her temperature is normal for 24 hours without aid of fever-reducing medication. In the event your child is sent home with one of the above health concerns, they will not be permitted back to LPGL AND CLCC without a doctor's note. The doctor's note must be written on their letterhead and read that the child can return to school because what they have is no longer contagious.

If a child is showing COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) OR if you've been in close contact with a person or child testing positive for COVID- 19, we ask you to keep your child home. They must be isolated for a minimum of 7 days after symptom onset, and 72 hours after their fever resolves without fever-reducing medicines. (For example, if symptoms and fever resolve on day 7, the person can return on day 10.) For most, this will be 14 days after the household contact with COVID-19.

We ask that all parents and staff let us know of any potential exposure immediately. A potential exposure means being a household contact or having close contact within 6 feet of an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID- 19 for at least 10 minutes. The timeframe for having contact with an individual includes the period of 48 hours before the individual became symptomatic. If there is a positive case of COVID-19 in a child or an adult who has been present in the childcare center, we will inform families and teachers.

Please keep in mind, we are not going to disclose any information due to confidentiality and respect for our families.

We hope you understand, we are trying to keep children, families and teachers as safe as possible during this time. Thank you so much for your cooperation in helping us keep LPGL AND CLCC safe! 



IMMUNIZATIONS

Every child in the state shall be vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases caused by infectious agents, in accordance with the following immunization schedule. While the department recommends that providers immunize children according to the recommendations found on the department's website at www.ImmunizeTexas.com, this section sets out minimum immunization requirements for school entry for the child. The child must have the indicated vaccinations by the grade level indicated. The vaccination schedule also indicates the grade before which the child should not obtain the specific vaccination. A copy of the current recommended schedule is available at www.ImmunizeTexas.com, or by mail by writing the Department of State Health Services, Mail Code 1946, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347.

1. For those vaccines where it is stated in this section that a certain dose must be received on or after a certain birthday, a vaccine administered up to four days prior to the birthday is considered compliant.
2. For diseases listed below, a child or student shall show acceptable evidence of vaccination prior to entry, attendance, or transfer to a child-care facility or public or private elementary or secondary school.

Children enrolled in child-care facilities, pre-kindergarten, or early childhood programs shall be immunized against:

- diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib), measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, invasive pneumococcal, and varicella diseases

In recognition of the fact that immunization needs vary depending on the age of the child, the minimum number of doses required for each vaccine is indicated on [https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=25&pt=1&ch=97&rl=63](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=25&pt=1&ch=97&rl=63)

EXEMPTIONS – AFFIDAVIT:

Texas law allows physicians to write medical exemption statements for vaccines that would be medically harmful or injurious to the health and well-being of the child or a household member. Parents or guardians can also choose a religious exemption from immunization requirements.

LPGL AND CLCC will begin requiring immunization records or affidavit (notarized) for ALL age groups, now including children who attend school. We understand the local schools have records, but as COVID is on the rise, we are requiring every child to provide a paper copy record.

COVID RESOURCES

During this difficult time, Little People's Greater Life and Clear Lake Child Care will continue to provide resources with activities and information for our parents and children. We will send most of these resources through our RemindMe! Our resources are being provided through Phoenix House Texas, CLI, CDC, local organizations and our teachers.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.idsociety.org/public-health/COVID-19-Resource-Center/>

<https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>

<https://www.readyharris.org/Incidents/COVID-19-Resources-Recovery>

[https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/johns-hopkins-childrens-center/children and individuals-and-families/COVID-19-resources-for-kids.html](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/johns-hopkins-childrens-center/children-and-individuals-and-families/COVID-19-resources-for-kids.html)

<https://www.childlife.org/resources/covid-19-resources>

https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Resource_Libraries/covid-19/resources_helping_kids_parents_cope.aspx

<https://www.prodigygame.com/blog/ultimate-list-resources-families-educators-covid-19/>

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/covid-19-resources/>