***Dear Creative Care Early Learning Academy Families***

**CLOSURE DATES: January 6 – January 10 2022**

On January 5, 2022 we learned about a staff member in our learning academy has tested positive with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Also, on January 6 we were informed that a family of 3 also tested positive with the virus. The preschool class was not directly affected or exposed, but needed to vacate the facility to schedule a deep cleaning servicing . Staff who were directly exposed had to apply the new CDC guidelines and quarantine.

We recommend that you take action to help limit the spread of COVID-19, even if your child is not experiencing symptoms.

**The most important things you can do:**

* Make sure your child is wearing [a mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html) when recommended or required.
* Make sure your child is [washing their hands](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html).
* Keep your child home if they are sick.
* Call your primary care provider if you or your child has [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html).
* Make sure that your children get vaccinated when they are eligible. [Find a location near you.](https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine)

**People who may have been exposed will be notified:**

Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and was in close contact with the person who tested positive may have been exposed to the virus and will be asked to quarantine, which means staying home and away from other people for up to 14 days.

Anyone who is fully vaccinated or has recovered from COVID-19 within the past 3 months and was in close contact with the person who tested positive does not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.

If you are identified as someone who may have been exposed, someone from either Creative Care Early Learning Academy or the Durham County Health Department will notify you and will provide information and guidance on quarantine and other recommendations. If the Health Department calls, make sure to answer the phone or call them back.

**Supporting our learning community and center**

In order to maintain everyone’s privacy, we cannot disclose who in our center has tested positive. Remember that we are all at risk of getting this virus. These “COVID-19 cases” are our friends and family, and we need to be understanding and supportive. People with COVID-19 often experience uncomfortable symptoms and emotional stress. Instead of participating in speculation or gossip, offer to help community members who are affected by quarantine. With creative action from all of us, we will get through this period of anxiety and disruption. We thank you for your investment in the health and wellbeing of children of Creative Care Early Learning Academy.

**How does COVID-19 spread?**

COVID-19 spreads when a person infected with COVID-19 breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus when they cough, sneeze, sing, talk, or breathe. People who are closer than 6 feet (or 2 meters) from the person with COVID-19 are most likely to get infected. You can get COVID-19 if these droplets or particles are breathed in, land on your eyes nose or mouth, or get on your hands, and then you touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

Vaccines are the best way to protect your child against COVID-19. When your child is fully vaccinated, they are much less likely to get sick and less likely to spread the virus to others. Everyone who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine should get vaccinated. It’s free, quick and easy- talk with your child’s health care provider if you have questions or find a vaccine site near Everyone, including children who can’t be vaccinated, can take prevention steps to protect themselves and others.

**How can parents and guardians help prevent COVID-19 from spreading?**

* If a staff member, you or your child is sick, please stay home.
* Make sure members of your household wash their hands often using soap and water for 20 seconds.
* Make sure every member of your household covers their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their elbow, and then washes their hands afterwards.
* Wear a mask in public when you cannot stay 6 feet apart from other people.

**We are working with the Health Department to keep our community safe.**

* We are working closely with the NC DHHS Childcare updated Toolkit and Durham County Health Department and following their recommendations to keep our childcare center safe.
* We will clean and disinfect the center per the Childcare Health Department guidance.
* Sick employees and children will not return to work until they are healthy.

We will continue to communicate changes and updates with you. With your participation, we believe we can create a safe and fun experience for your children.

Please see the Creative Care Parent Handbook for policies on Rates and Fees regarding absences and closures.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me via the Brightwheel Parent App or 919-638-3667.

Many thanks,

Carolyn McNair

Creative Care ELA