



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ATHENS-MCMINN FAMILY YMCA COVID-19 Childcare Policies and Procedures

The Athens-McMinn Family YMCA childcare program must take extraordinary precautions beyond what is normally recommended to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Effective immediately, the following policies and procedures will be put in place to ensure the health and well-being of all children including:

- **Intake Health Screening:** All children and staff will be required to pass a health screening, which includes a temperature check before being allowed to enter the childcare and/or program area.
- **Handwashing:** Anyone entering the childcare and/or program area will be required to wash their hands while being supervised by one of our staff members. This will ensure proper handwashing to reduce the spread of germs.
- **Personal Belongings:** Outside toys, stuffed animals, electronic devices, and any other personal belongings will not be allowed in the childcare and/or program areas. Any personal belongings associated with caring for an infant, such as pacifiers, will be allowed after it has been sanitized by one of our staff members to prevent outside germs from entering childcare and/or program areas.
- **Program Areas:** Parents and other staff will not be allowed to enter into the childcare and/or program areas unless in an emergency situation. They will then be required to go through the same screening and handwashing procedures to ensure the safety of the children in our care.

In addition, all childcare programs will adhere to the following programmatic policies involving the supervision of children and following the CDC guidelines for social distancing:

- **Grouping:** All children will be placed in small groups of no more than 10 and will be kept six feet or more apart. Children will remain in consistent groups each day with a maximum 1:9 staff to child ratio. All large group activities are prohibited. Staff must stay actively engaged with children in order to enforce this and are required to maintain social distancing of six feet apart.



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- Staff will use visible tools for children like hula hoops, poly spots or approved floor tape to mark six foot distances. If sitting at tables, children should be at opposite ends (head of table) with no more than two children per table.
- **Curriculum:** Our programs will continue to offer high quality enrichment and caring environments for children to learn, grow, and thrive. These components would include the following:
 - Language and Literacy Development
 - Social and Emotional Development
 - Physical Development and Wellness
 - Executive Functioning Skills
 - Cognitive Development
 - Creative Expressions
 - S.T.E.A.M. Programming

In addition, staff members will use innovative and engaging techniques to incorporate lessons and activities to teach children how to prevent the spread of germs like teaching and modeling proper handwashing, among others.

- **Learning Station Expectations:** Learning stations will be individual activities to ensure social distancing while children are using the equipment. After each use, learning stations will be disinfected or sanitized by Lysol or other approved cleaning solution and air dried.
 - The following are approved learning stations:
 - Legos
 - Lincoln Logs
 - Plastic Manipulatives
 - Non-Foam Blocks
 - Battleship (must maintain social distancing with children sitting at the heads of the table)
 - Kinexs
 - Toy Cars
 - Plastic Action Figures
 - Sewing Paper Plates with Yarn
 - Q-Tips for Painting
 - Cup Stacking (plastic cups only)
 - Drawing w/Markers and Colored Pencils (NO crayons)
 - Dramatic Play (Plastic Kitchen, Plastic Doll House, etc.) as long as it is individual and cleaned after each use



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- The following are NOT Approved Learning Stations:
 - Play-Dough
 - Kinetic Sand
 - Board Games with Paper
 - Soft Surface Blocks
 - Cloth Toys
 - Crayons
 - Anything that does not air dry within 10 minutes of sanitation solution
- **Meal Times:** We have changed our meal times and the service delivery model during meal times to address the risks of COVID-19. The following procedures will be followed to remain in compliance with the CDC and social distancing policies:
 - All surfaces will be disinfected at the beginning of each shift and before meal preparation and feedings using CDC and EPA approved products.
 - Like normal policy, staff will monitor and enforce handwashing for all children.
 - Staff and children will not eat at the same time to allow staff to adequately clean hands and disinfect surfaces between meals.
 - At tables, students should be at opposite ends (head of table) with no more than two per table.
- **Equipment:** Children will not be allowed to share communal supplies. Staff will disinfect and sanitize items before it is allowed to be used by another child.
 - Only approved learning stations will be allowed. These stations have been approved based on materials that prevent the spread of illness.

Additional Safety Procedures:

- **Temperature Checks:** All staff and children will be required to have temperature checks after lunch, preschool nap, and/or snack time.
- **Handwashing:** Mandating frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the restroom, before and after eating, after blowing one's nose, or if a child touches their face. Staff members are required to supervise children to ensure children have thoroughly washed their hands.



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- Handwashing will be incorporated into the daily schedule. Staff and children will wash hands at every transition, which occurs about every 30 minutes throughout the day.
- If soap and water are not readily available, closely supervise the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to avoid ingestion.
- **Cleaning:** Increasing the cleaning and disinfecting routine to multiple times per day will help to limit the spread of germs. During this time, staff will ensure cleaning solution is not accessible to children nearby. Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces are essential. This includes wiping down hard surfaces with sanitizer and allowing ample time to dry. Please do not wipe off.
 - In addition to routine cleaning, staff will disinfect and sanitize high touch surfaces. Each program will have a designed cleaning person assigned to the program during operational hours. This staff member will not be responsible for supervising children while they are cleaning. Following standard procedures for cleaning as recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is essential, which includes frequent sanitizing of surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as bathrooms, water fountains, tables, countertops, doorknobs, hands-on learning items, faucet handles and toys.
 - All program areas will be thoroughly sanitized and disinfected during a deep cleaning process at the end of each day.