



## MDO COVID-19 PROCEDURES & PROTOCOLS

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The Journey Mother's Day Out program will follow the following procedures and protocols to help protect the health and safety of all employees and children in its care.

- Based on guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services department, the Journey MDO will create and operate around the following prevention measures:
  - Modified drop-off and pick-up procedures
  - Implementation of screening procedures upon arrival
  - Implementation of *Social Distancing Strategies*
  - Intensified cleaning and disinfection efforts

### Parent pick-up and drop-off:

- The drop-off and pick-up of children will be completed outside of the operation. Drop-off and pick-up for **all students will occur at the back door of the facility under the covered driveway.**
- At drop-off, parents will walk their child to the sign-in station (observing social distancing recommendations of 6 ft. between other families). Adults are highly encouraged to wear a face mask. (Children are NOT required to wear a face mask.)
- Children will undergo a screening process to include:
  - Taking their temperature upon arrival. **(The child will not be admitted if their measured temperature is greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit).**
- Children's hands will be cleaned with hand sanitizer before they enter the facility.
- Parents will sign-in their child and a staff member will walk the child to their classroom.
- At pick-up, parents will wait under the covered driveway or by the glass doors (observing social distancing recommendations) while a staff member brings their child from their classroom to them. These staff members should wear a mask and adhere to social distancing recommendations.
- If possible, older people such as grandparents should not pick up children, because they are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19.



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### Screening:

- The following individuals should be screened every day before entering the facility (following the previously described screening measures):
  - Operations staff;
  - Children enrolled at the operation;
  - Persons with legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, Licensing staff and Department of Family and Protective Services staff;
  - Professionals providing services to children;
  - Parents who have children enrolled and present at the operation. Parents should only enter the facility when necessary.
  
- Send home any employee or child who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:

*Cough	*Diarrhea
*Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	*Feeling feverish or temp > 100.4
*Chills	*Muscle pains
*Headache	*Sore throat
*Loss of taste or smell	*Known close contact w/person who is lab confirmed w/ COVID-19
  
- The length of time the child should stay out of child care depends on whether the child has COVID-19 or another illness. In most instances, those who have COVID-19 can be around others after:
  - 10 since symptoms first appeared **and**
  - 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
  - Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving
  
- Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms, can be around others 10 days from their first positive COVID-19 test.
  
- **Close Contacts of Persons with COVID-19**
  - Whether and for how long to stay home for people who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 depends on vaccination status.
  - Children and unvaccinated staff who had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 (such as a family member), should stay home for 14 days after their last exposure to that person.



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- It is recommended that fully vaccinated people who have come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 be tested 3-5 days after exposure and to wear a mask in public for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- Parents will be notified if there is a case of COVID-19 in their child's classroom. **\*It is very important for parents to monitor their child's health and to not send them to the program if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19. Parents should seek COVID testing promptly and report results to the program immediately.**

### Social distancing strategies:

- Employees maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- Classes should include the same group each day, and the same child care providers should remain with the same group each day.
- Keep each group of children in a separate room to the extent possible.
- Limit the mixing of children, such as staggering playground times and keeping groups separate for special activities such as art, music, and exercising.
- Minimize time standing in lines, keeping children at safe distances apart from each other. Six feet of separation between children is preferred.
- Limit the use of water tables and sensory tables, and have children wash or sanitize their hands immediately after using these play stations.
- Increase the distance between children during table work.
- Incorporate more outside activities, where feasible.
- Limit access to the center.
  - Prohibit any but the following individuals from accessing the facility:
    - Operations staff
    - Children enrolled at the center;
    - Parents who have children enrolled and present at the operation (only when absolutely necessary);
    - Persons with legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, Licensing staff, and Department of Family and Protective Services staff;
    - Professionals providing services to children.



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### Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting measures:

- Clean and disinfect classrooms prior to reopening the facility in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- Routinely clean, sanitize and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games.
- Clean objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily such as doorknobs, light switches, classrooms sink handles, countertops, toilet training seats, chairs and playground structures. Use the cleaners typically used in the facility.
- All bathrooms should be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day, at a minimum of three times per day.
- Cleaning products:
  - Use cleaning products specific to COVID-19 with guidance from the EPA.
  - Provide child care providers with disinfecting wipes so that commonly used surfaces and equipment can be wiped down before use.
  - All cleaning materials should be kept secure and out of reach of children.
- Clean and sanitize toys:
  - Clean toys with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with disinfectant and air-dry.
  - For toys that cannot be submerged in water, wipe with disinfecting wipes following the manufacturer's instructions for disinfection.
  - Child care providers should change the child's clothes if secretions are on the child's clothes. Contaminated clothes should be placed in a plastic bag and the provider should wash their hands.
  - All children and providers should have multiple changes of clothes on hand. Children should not be allowed to wear other children's clothing.

### Healthy hand hygiene:

- All children, staff and volunteers should engage in hand hygiene at the following times:
  - Arrival at the facility and after breaks
  - Before and after preparing food or drinks
  - Before and after eating or handling food
  - Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
  - Before and after diapering
  - After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom

- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After playing outdoors or in sand
- After handling garbage
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available.
- Supervise children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent ingestion.
- Assist children with handwashing. After assisting children, staff should also wash their hands.
- Place posters describing handwashing steps near sinks.