

REOPENING PLAN:

Introduction

Background

The safety of our students, staff and community are of the utmost importance. Ganrormic Inc (dba Wee Can Preschool) COVID-19 Reopening Plan establishes and explains the procedures, practices and safeguards needed to meet the recommendations and guidance outlined by the following governmental agencies:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) CDC Guidance for K-12 Schools;
- Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) www.osha.gov;
- New York State Department of Health
(NYSDOH)<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>;
- New York State Education Department (NYSED) <http://www.nysed.gov/coronavirus>;
- New York State's "New York Forward" guidelines <https://forward.ny.gov/>.

Based on the above guidance, we have developed procedures related to the Operations and Instruction for three scenarios: Face-to-Face, Hybrid and Remote Learning. Understanding the ever-changing nature of this pandemic, we have developed a plan to allow us to switch learning modalities if necessary.

Three Phases of Reopening & Maintaining Safety

1. Planning for September 2020
2. Launching the 2020-21 School Year
3. On-going monitoring & assessment during the 2020-21 School Year

Additionally, each topic of the plan contains guidance, procedures, protocols and/or other measures which explain practices that need to be considered in order to maximize the health and safety of students and staff.

Plan Development

This plan was developed in collaboration with key stakeholders from all constituent groups, including:

- Administrators
- Wee Can Teachers
- Parent involvement

| Important Contact Information | |
|---|---|
| Issues related to changing your child’s mode of learning (going from remote to in person or visa versa) | Your child’s teacher via “remind” or “Procare connect” or Wee Can Director (Julie) via email JulieW@weecan.com |
| Assignments, classwork, homework or activities related to your child’s educational needs | Your child’s teacher via “remind” or “Procare connect” |
| Issues regarding your child’s speech/OT/PT needs | Your child’s therapist, via email, or the Director via email |
| Access to Internet for remote learning | If You Do Not Have Internet Access In Your Home As of Monday, March 16th, 2020 any student lacking internet access at home may call 1 (844) 488-8398 during the school closure for free internet provided Spectrum. When you call, select the option for new services. Inform the service representative you are calling regarding the Remote Student Educational offer. While we do not endorse or promote this vendor, we share this information as a resource for families. Technical Support at Home |
| Social-emotional, personal or academic concern | Your child’s teacher, your child’s primary health care provider or Wee Can Director, as applicable |

| Communication / Family Engagement |
|---|
| <p>Wee Can Administration will provide regular communication to families, responsive to recent changes/developments. Communication will be via email or text messages via “remind” or our app called “Procare Connect” Teachers communicate with families via email. text and telephone communications. Home/School communications with Social Distancing constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virtual Open House ● Parent/Teacher Conferences via video conferencing ● 1:1 teacher/ Parent interaction as needed |

Health and Safety

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In accordance with the NYSED and NYSDOH guidance, face coverings are defined as:

Cloth face coverings including homemade masks, or disposable paper masks

Single layer **neck gaiters** do not provide adequate protection and will not be acceptable.

Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators or other medication personal protective equipment. Therefore, as defined, **face shields** are not an acceptable replacement for a face covering.

If a student has medical, behavioral and/or special education needs that do not permit him/her to wear a face covering, parents are advised to communicate that you your child's teacher, so that all available accommodations can be considered.

Employees requesting an accommodation, should contact Julie Wettlaufer/RN MSN – the Executive Director.

We will communicate the following expectations for wearing face coverings:

Students must wear a face covering:

- On the school bus;
- Entering/exiting the building;
- Traveling through the building/hallways;
- Whenever 6 ft. social distancing cannot be maintained;
- In classrooms except for designated mask breaks (see note below)

In a typical classroom, a teacher and all teaching assistants as well as therapists, are working in close proximity to students, during most of the school day. Additionally, students have movement within classrooms. The balance between creating a comfortable, natural classroom environment where students are engaged in age appropriate social play and interaction, and having them protect each other by wearing masks, is a delicate balance. It is anticipated students will sneeze and possibly not cover their nose/mouth, hug their teachers and probably their friends. Share materials when they are not supposed to etc.... **We will make our best effort to have 3 and 4 year old children wear masks during the above scenarios, however, we are also realists and recognize that despite our best efforts, we can not guarantee 100% compliance.**

Students will remove masks while eating breakfast and/or lunch, students will also have “mask breaks” during the day.

- Disposable face coverings will be available at each school and on school buses for School personnel will assist students who have difficulty in adapting to wearing a face covering.
- The District will provide training to students, faculty, staff and families on how to adequately put on, take off, clean (as applicable), and discard PPE, including but not limited to, appropriate face coverings.

Social Distancing

Social distancing (6 ft. or 12 ft. during aerobic activity, activities requiring projective the voice, and band/playing an instrument using your breath) will occur during instruction and whenever practicable. When polycarbonate shields are not provided and social distancing cannot occur, all students/staff will don cloth face coverings (ie, transitioning from class, walking in the halls, on buses to and from school etc.)

Faculty and staff meetings, department meetings, interviews, CSE meetings, training,

Meetings

professional development, and any other situation requiring dense congregations of people will be held outdoors or via video or tele-conferencing when possible. Situations requiring in-person gatherings will ensure appropriate social distancing is maintained and will be held in open, well-ventilated spaces. Masks will be required when social distancing is not able to be maintained.

Health Screenings

- All students will be screened via curbside remote app called "Procare Connect". If the child presents with COVID-19 symptoms the parent/guardian is requested to contact the building nurse and the child should be kept at home.

All students have a forehead scan temperature check prior to exiting parent car/ bus in our parking lot. Any child with a scan temp equal to or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit will have an axillary temperature taken to confirm the fact that the child's temperature is elevated and will be denied access to the building. Parents answer the COVID questions via the curb side app and they are recorded and kept.

- Staff must self assess prior to entering the building. Checklists/Questionnaires are kept on file after staff check in. Staff self checks and records their temperature on entering the building. If a scan temp equal to or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, staff leaves the building and calls the nurse from their car. They will have an axillary temperature taken to confirm the fact the temperature is elevated and will be denied access to the building.

- Each building will display and share with parents, age appropriate posters as reminders of proper hand washing, proper donning of face masks, how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and how to protect yourself and others.

Isolation of Individuals Exhibiting Symptoms of COVID-19:

The nurses office will be used to house students and staff that exhibit COVID-19 symptoms until they can exit the building. The nurse or another staff member will be assigned to supervise students until a parent/guardian arrives to pick them up. The staff member will maintain social distancing and be provided appropriate PPE equipment including a face shield, face covering, gown, gloves, and a 2-way radio so that the school nurse, front desk monitor and staff member can communicate regarding the student and when the parent/guardian arrives for pick up. Parents will be directed to the back entrance of the building and the child/staff member will be escorted to the vehicle at the back of the building.

Protocol for students/staff that exhibit COVID-19 symptoms:

If a student presents with symptoms related to COVID-19, the teacher should use their walkie talkie to communicate with the school nurse that they are bringing a student to the office for assessment. If the nurse is not available, the Executive Director will be notified. If the Executive Director is not available, any other reliable, free adult will be notified. Follow up with a health care provider will be mandatory.

Wee Can will follow this protocol for all students and staff that exhibit COVID-19

Symptoms:

If a student receives a COVID test, the building nurse will advise the parent/guardian of the protocols the student must complete in order to return to school.

Please see

See also: Erie County DOH Quarantine Flowchart

Note to Parents when a child is sent home with COVID-19 symptoms

If a child is sent home with COVID-19 symptoms, the nurse will give the parent/guardian a form that indicates the protocol that must be followed to return to school if there is no COVID-19 test performed by a healthcare provider. The building nurse will complete the information and hand it to the parent/guardian when the student is released from school. The student must remain under quarantine at home for a 14-day period after last known exposure; monitor for symptoms and consider getting a COVID-19 diagnostic test five days or more after last exposure.

Contact Tracing

Who is a close contact of someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19? A close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection). The important task of contact tracing is dependent on the accuracy of our records. The following records will be utilized and analyzed when contact tracing occurs:

- Attendance records to determine who was present and onsite (both students and teacher/staff attendance records);
- Bus route rosters;
- On site "alternate staff assignment sheets" – located in all classrooms where staff may be floated from one area or classroom to another.

Building Executive Director or Nurse is the COVID-19 Points of Contact will work with the Erie County Department of Health Contact Tracing unit to determine close contacts of the individual exhibiting symptoms. Close contacts of our employee(s) or student(s) will be contacted **by the Erie County Department of Health to advise them of the need to quarantine.**

Return to Work or School

Once employees or students have completed their period of isolation or quarantine, they can self-certify that they are released from isolation or quarantine and return to work or school. ECDOH recommends the CDC and NYSDOH time-based strategy for returning to work or school after a positive COVID-19 test, which would not require a negative test before returning. A repeat positive COVID-19 diagnostic test more than 10 days after onset of illness or after 1st test does not mean a person can infect others.

The parent will be responsible for attesting that the protocol is followed by signing the form and returning it to school with the child after the mandated quarantine period.

Conducting school safety drills amid COVID-19

- All required NYS school safety drills will be conducted with the consideration of the social distancing and face covering requirements. It is understood that evacuation drills will likely take longer than they would without social distancing.
- As part of the drill, students should be instructed that social distancing is part of the drill, however, in a real situation (i.e. fire) social distancing is secondary to the immediate need to evacuate. In that event, students and staff will wear face coverings if possible.

Medically Vulnerable/High Risk Groups (adults)

The following groups are at increased risk for complications from COVID-19 and may need accommodations to perform their job duties. Persons in these groups should consult with their healthcare provider and the agency regarding prevention:

- Individuals age 65 or older;
- Pregnant individuals;
- Individuals with underlying health conditions including, but not limited to:
 - chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - serious heart conditions
 - immunocompromised
 - severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
 - diabetes
 - chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
 - liver disease
 - sickle cell anemia

FACILITIES

- To prepare for the arrival of students, teachers and staff, the following safety enhancements have been completed in the agency building: in each school building prior to the first attendance:
 - Markings for one-way traffic patterns through halls at all buildings
 - Markings to indicate 6' social distancing where applicable
 - Signage installed at entrances and throughout buildings to inform and remind occupants of proper hygiene recommendations
 - Removal of excess furniture to create additional space for social distancing of students and staff
 - Install polycarbonate shield partitions for forward-facing high contact positions (i.e. main office secretaries)
 - Outdoor hand washing station added to increase hand washing opportunities for students and staff
 - Provide hand sanitizer (60% alcohol or greater) in all classrooms as well as common areas. Hand washing with soap and water should be taught and encouraged especially when hands are visibly soiled. Hand sanitizer can be used if soap and water is not available.*Alcohol based hand sanitizer should only be used by children under adult supervision
 - Review all HVAC settings to ensure all spaces are provided adequate ventilation

○ HVAC filters will continue to be changed and de-scaling of all HVAC units has occurred.

Visitors to the Building

- Building procedures
- Limit access of visitors (i.e. no parent volunteers, guest speakers, student teachers, deliveries etc.)
- Communication to parents, community regarding limitation of visitor access
- Training of Front Desk

Special considerations

- Before/after school child care students are kept as a cohort by classroom
- Water fountains - "closed"
- Restrooms
- "closed" hand dryers and ensure availability of paper towel dispensers
- Limit capacity in restrooms
- Face coverings must be worn in restrooms