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September 2, 2022

Dear Families, Staff and Visitors;

RE: COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool Updates

We have recently received revised documents from the Ministry of Health in preparing for the return to school year. It is very important that we all work towards continuing to keep our programs open and ensure that we are using the appropriate screening tool(s) each day before arrival to the programs.

The link below will bring you directly to the COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening tools. There is now a screening tool for non-immunocompromised people and one for immunocompromised or living in a higher risk congregate care setting. Both screening tools can be accessed at this link.

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening>

We hope that you have downloaded the screening tool for easy access to screen each morning. If you require a printed out version please let us know and we could have it printed off for you.

The updated screening tool has added back additional symptoms, isolation requirements, and additional precautions for close contacts and requirements for masking. Take a moment to review the new screening tools and practice answering with a few scenarios in mind to better understand our requirements.

Please refer to all directions provided in each case as you answer the questions. The screening tool is our best defense in keeping COVID-19 out of our programs and children, families and staff safe and healthy.

Below is the link to the Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario (Version 15). Yes, version 15, we have had many changes to the guidance document as we have worked through the COVID-19 pandemic.

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/contact_management/management_cases_contacts.pdf

Lastly, we welcome the start of another school year. There are many new beginnings for families and our staff and our hope is that the transitions are smooth and children are happy. Continued communication with each other will support our work and the children. We will remember to be kind, pause and reflect when we need to, and as always start each new day with a smile.

These last few years have been challenging, to say the least, and the Discovery Early Learning & Care teams have embraced each change in direction from the Ministry of Education and our internal policies with open minds and always considering the needs of the children first. I would like to thank everyone for their contributions in making Discovery Early Learning & Care an amazing place to work, play, learn and grow.

Kind regards,

Tracy

Tracy Saarikoski, RECE, AECEO.C, BA

Executive Director

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