

## **COVID-19 PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE (UPDATED 9/12/21)**

In our 2021-22 aftercare program, our implementation of COVID-19 best practices will depend on guidance provided by the CDC, the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, the Chicago Public Schools, and Alexander Graham Bell Elementary School. Guidance may change during the course of the school year, and may become more or less restrictive. Also, guidance may be different for indoor activities as compared to outdoor activities.

### **Cloth masks required:**

Before they may be accepted into aftercare each day, children must be wearing a cloth mask. We will provide masks to children who need one.

### **Children who begin to show signs of illness during aftercare:**

If your child has an excessive temperature, or in instances when a child starts to display signs of illness (fever, cough, runny nose, etc.). If your child starts to display signs of illness, we will attempt to contact you using information you provided as part of your online account and during the aftercare registration process. We ask that you keep this information updated, which you may do online at any time.

### **Indoor activities:**

Guidance when indoors currently includes maintaining small, consistent groups, regularly and properly wearing cloth masks, social distancing, and keeping our work areas clean.

- **Maintaining small, consistent groups:** In an effort to prevent COVID transmission, we follow CPS and Bell School guidance by splitting our aftercare students into several smaller, grade-level groups. Further, to avoid an entire grade-level group being quarantined in the event of a positive case when there are uncertainties as to who was within “close contact”, we have implemented seating charts that help us to significantly reduce that uncertainty when it comes to defining “close contact”.
- **Cloth masks:** Masks covering the nose and mouth must be worn at all times while indoors, except for when eating or playing a musical instrument.
- **Social distancing:** Maintaining 6 feet of personal space is the general rule indoors. Children who are assigned to and maintained in small groups have some flexibility in reducing their distancing, and we will maintain small groups to facilitate this.

- **Clean work areas:** We are providing children with hand sanitizer and facial tissue for their personal use prior to eating and after handling materials. Our staff will be following procedures to ensure that work areas are cleaned before and after use, in addition to our regular cleaning of high touch areas. Additionally, we will be reminding children to regularly wash their hands with soap and water, to try to limit touching surfaces, and to do their part in keeping their work areas clean.

### **Outdoor activities:**

Guidance when outdoors is similar to that of being indoors, with the exception of when staff and students are outside and able to clearly maintain safe social distancing, it is not required for them to wear cloth masks. In furtherance of this guidance, and recognizing it may not be feasible and is perhaps unhealthy for a child to wear a mask for the full day of school followed by aftercare, it is not our staff's focus to require masks outdoors when social distancing is clearly defined. If you do not want your child to remove their mask while outdoors, please instruct your child not to do so, as our staff's role, depending on the current guidance, will be to ensure that children who are not socially distant are properly wearing their masks.

### **Social distancing while eating indoors:**

In addition to their assigned seating during snack time, children are also provided with suitable social distancing space and are encouraged to maintain that space. If any child feels they need more space, they should let one of our staff members know right away.

### **Precautions by our staff and parents during student pickup:**

Any adult picking up your child from aftercare must, based on the current guidance, be properly wearing a cloth mask, maintain responsible social distancing of at least 6 feet from others at all times, and follow our safety procedures.

### **Handling of take-home materials and projects:**

Any completed or take-home project that a child elects to keep may be subject to COVID-19 contamination before, during, or after the child takes it with them. While our staff is conscientious in preparing and packaging items for after-school use, it is impossible to sterilize any item or maintain item sterilization in an after-school environment.