



Memo

To: Parents

From: Samona France, Owner

CC: Little Steps of Joy Academy Staff

Subject: COVID 19

Dear Parents:

Based on state law, federal guidance, and Governor Abbott's disaster declaration, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has updated their requirements for day care operations to assist them in protecting children in their care from COVID-19.

HHSC Child Care Licensing (CCL) urges all current providers to immediately implement the following guidance, which is consistent with the new requirements:

- Prohibit any person except the following from accessing an operation: operation staff; persons with legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, HHSC Child Care Licensing staff, and Department of Family and Protective Services staff; professionals providing services to children; children enrolled at the operation; and parents who have children enrolled and present at the operation.
- Before allowing entry into the operation, screen all of the individuals listed above, including taking the temperature of each person upon arrival at the operation each day, and deny entry to any person who meets any of the following criteria:
 - A temperature of 100.4°F or above;
 - Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and low-grade fever;

- In the previous 14 days has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19; is under investigation for COVID-19; or is ill with a respiratory illness; or
- In the previous 14 days has travelled internationally to countries with widespread, sustained community transmission. For updated information on affected countries, visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/travelers/index.html>.
- Require pick up and drop off of children outside of the operation, unless you determine that there is a legitimate need for the parent to enter an operation.
- Ensure that each child is provided individual meals and snacks. Do not serve family style meals.

Our center will comply with the above requirements to ensure the safety of the children in our care and staff. We recognize the extraordinary challenge this situation poses to our parents and operations and we ask that you support our efforts in maintaining compliance during this time to help you protect the health and safety of the children in our care.

These changes are effective immediately. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this information.

Sincerely,

Samona France

