



Infectious Disease Policy

It is the goal of Sissy's Little Lambs Children's Center to maintain the wellness of every child and staff member. Our updated health guidelines are based on regulations and recommendations set forth by our local Department of Health (DOH), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) our licensing agency, and our Health Care Consultant, Celia Seigers, PA. ***These practices are subject to change as needed.*** As the risk in our area for COVID-19 continues, we are asking each of our families and employees to acknowledge and agree to the following procedures.

- Sissy's Little Lambs Children's Center reserves the right to close the program at any time due to the guidance/instruction from DOH/OCFS or at their discretion for the health and safety of our children, families, and employees.
- **ALL** Families and Employees are required to sign the OCFS-6040 "Child Care Employee, Volunteer, Parent-Child, and Essential Visitors Health Screening One-Time Attestation" form. If you answer "yes" to any of the questions you need to stay home and notify the Center of your absence)
- Documentation of the Health Screening is required by OCFS therefore all families (parents/guardians and children) and employees will be required to verbally answer the following questions and have temperatures taken **daily** (documented only for children) at the time of arrival.
 1. Is your temperature higher than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit?
 2. Have you had any known contact with a person confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
 3. Are you currently experiencing ANY of the following symptoms?
 - Cough (new or worsening)
 - Shortness of breath / Trouble breathing (new or worsening)
 - Fever / Chills
 - Muscle pain (new or worsening)
 - Headache (new or worsening)
 - Sore throat (new or worsening)
 - New loss of taste / New loss of smell
 - Vomiting / Diarrhea
 - Fatigue
 - Rash (new or worsening)
 - Respiratory Illness (congestion or runny nose)
 4. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 through a diagnostic test in the past 14 days?
 5. Have you traveled to/from any state in which you are required to quarantine in the past 14 days?

If you have answered "NO" to all questions, you have passed and may enter the program.

If you have answered "YES" to any question, you will not be allowed to enter the program.

Exclusion/Quarantine Guidelines

OCFS Regulations

- If the parent/guardian –who is a member of the same household as the child –is exhibiting signs of an infectious disease or has been tested and is positive for the virus, utilize an emergency contact authorized by the parent to come pick up the child. As a "close contact," the child must not return to the child care center for the duration of the quarantine.

- If the parent/guardian—who is a member of the same household as the child—is being quarantined as a precautionary measure, without symptoms or a positive test, staff should walk out or deliver the child to the parent/guardian at the exterior of the building. As a “Contact of a Contact”, the child may return to the Child Care Center during the duration of the quarantine.
- If a child or their household member becomes symptomatic for infectious disease and/or tests positive, the child must quarantine and may not return or attend the child care center until after quarantine is complete.

Sissy's Little Lambs Children's Center Guidelines

- Children with diarrhea and/or vomiting must stay home for at least 72 hours from the onset of illness and may return when symptom-free without fever-reducing medicine
- If a child is sent home/stays home with infectious disease symptoms, all siblings will be sent home/must remain home until the child is symptom-free
- If a household member is sent home from school or work with infectious disease symptoms, then child/ren at Sissy's Little Lambs Children's Center must be picked up also and are required to quarantine whether presenting with symptoms or not.

You will need to keep your child at home, or make alternate arrangements for the following conditions:

- Fever above 100°F [37.8°C] or higher taken axillary (armpit), chills or rigors.
- Sore throat.
- Rash.
- Shortness of breath.
- Cough.
- Nasal congestion or rhinorrhea
- The child is too ill to participate in program activities.
- The illness results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children;
- An acute change in behavior – this could include lethargy/lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, or having a quickly spreading rash;
- Vomiting more than two times in the previous 24 hours, unless the vomiting is determined to be caused by a non-infectious condition and the child remains adequately hydrated.
- Diarrhea:
 - Diapered children whose stool is not contained in the diaper or if the stool frequency exceeds two or more stools above normal for the child.
 - Toilet-trained children if the diarrhea is causing soiled pants or clothing.
- Nausea
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- Poor feeding or poor appetite
- Abdominal pain that continues for more than two hours or intermittent pain associated with fever or other signs or symptoms of illness.
- Mouth sores with drooling unless the child's health care provider states that the child is not infectious.
- Infected eyes or skin.
- Any type of contagious or communicable disease such as flu, measles, mumps, rubella, or chickenpox.

If a symptom is not related to infectious disease and is pre-existing and written documentation is provided by a physician documenting it is pre-existing, exclusion from care is not necessary. **Immediately report to staff any contagious or communicable disease.**

New York State Guidelines

- Children with a fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher must stay home until fever-free for **72 hours** without fever-reducing medicine.
- Families are expected to adhere to all NYS Executive Orders regarding infectious diseases including but not limited to the travel advisory.
- On June 24, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued [Executive Order 205 \(EO 205\)](#), which sets forth restricted travel areas within the U.S. for New Yorkers and those traveling to New York. If an individual arrives in New York after having spent more than 24 hours in a restricted area, the individual could be subject to a 14-day quarantine. This quarantine must be carried out following the New York Department of Health (DOH) regulations for self-quarantining, and violators are subject to penalties of up to \$10,000. The DOH reports that it will update the list of restricted states weekly.
- Please know that if you or a household member travels to one of the restricted areas, you will be required to quarantine before you bring your child(ren) back to our center. Payment is still required, please refer to the tuition agreement.

Notification of Infectious Disease Information

- All families will be notified through email and text message if a child, family member, or employee has tested positive for any infectious disease such as COVID-19.
- DOH will be notified of all positive test results and the Center will follow their guidelines and recommendations with regards to who should quarantine and the possibility of program closure.

If a child becomes sick at daycare, the parent or if the parent is unable to be reached, the person authorized to pick up in the case of an emergency, will be called and asked to pick up the child. The staff will isolate the child from the other children and make him/her as comfortable as possible. Please keep the child at home until he/she is well enough to attend. At the minimum, a child needs to be **symptom-free for 72 hours** and able to participate in a normal day of care comfortably before returning to daycare.

Returning to Care

Sissy's Little Lambs Children's Center will follow the CDC, state, and local public health guidelines for symptom-based return. To return to Sissy's Little Lambs documentation must be provided either from the physician attesting the illness is a chronic medical condition unrelated to an infectious disease or written attestation from a parent indicating the child has been 3 days off medication with no fever, respiratory and presenting symptoms have improved and 10 days have passed since symptoms have appeared or since tested.

I agree to inform the program if I, my child, or any family member, tests positive for an infectious disease such as COVID-19 so that the program can take necessary mandated steps. All identities remain confidential.

Out of respect for the other children, families, and staff members, failure to abide by our policies or failure to disclose any infectious disease exposure or positive test of yourself, your child, or family member may result in immediate termination from this program.

Please see the health care plan and guidelines for any additional health-related issues. Upon request, The Health Care Plan is available from the office for review.