



## **COVID-19 Policy**

MUSA follows the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), and these policies are subject to change.

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. MUSA is protecting against aerosolized spread with the following protocols:

- 6 feet of distance between desks (CCC program)
- 6 feet of distance between cots during naptime (preschool program)
- Limiting the number of people in each program room, including consistent staff members when possible
- Separate small group cohorts; groups do not mix while in common areas such as hallways, bathrooms, or the gym

COVID-19 can also spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. MUSA is protecting against surface spread with the following protocols:

- Frequent hand washing
- Daily cleaning of shared surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, program materials, and play equipment
- Separate, labeled cots and bedding during naptime (preschool program)
- Separate program rooms for each small group cohort; groups do not mix

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

For questions regarding COVID-19, isolation, and quarantine guidance, please contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) at 1-877-PA-HEALTH.

## **Drop off & Pick up Procedures**

- Keep 6 feet of distance while waiting for drop off or pick up.
- Please do not enter the program rooms; wait in the hallway or entryway vestibule (immediately through the MUSA double doors of Suite 203).
- If possible, the same person should drop off and pick up the child every day.
- At drop off every day, children and adults must follow these steps. Staff are also following these steps prior to each shift:
  - Anyone older than two must wear properly fitting nose and face coverings at all times while inside the COG building, unless they are eating or drinking or have a documented medical condition that prevents them from safely wearing a cloth mask.
  - Children and adults must use the provided hand sanitizer.
  - A MUSA staff member will use a contactless forehead thermometer to take the child's temperature. Children with fever of 100.4+ degrees or other signs of illness will not be admitted.
  - Each caregiver must answer three questions before dropping off a child. Any affirmative answers will disallow the child from being admitted to the facility:
    1. Is the child experiencing any symptoms?
    2. Has the child tested positive for COVID-19?
      - If the child has been tested due to possible exposure but has not yet received test results, they will not be admitted until a negative test result is confirmed.
    3. Has the child been exposed to someone with COVID-19?
      - Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet for 15+ minutes of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19. It also means coming into direct contact with droplets from a COVID-19 positive individual. Persons who test positive are considered infectious 48 hours before the onset of symptoms. Persons testing positive but not having symptoms are considered infectious 2 days after exposure (if known) or starting 2 days before test date (if exposure is unknown).

## **If an attending child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19**

- MUSA Executive Director Hannah Sitz must be notified immediately, either by phone or email (412-660-1242 or [hannahs@musasv.org](mailto:hannahs@musasv.org)). Per HIPAA regulations, the identity of the affected person will not be disclosed to anyone.
- The affected room(s) will close for a period of 48 hours so that the facility can be cleaned and disinfected properly. All attempts will be made to provide suitable alternative locations during this period, but this may result in a temporary program closure.
- An email will immediately be sent to inform caregivers and staff. For those with phone numbers provided as the preferred contact method, MUSA staff will connect via telephone and will leave voicemail messages.
- Per state law, MUSA will report the positive case to the DOH and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS).

## **Exposure Procedures**

- If a child develops fever, chills, shortness of breath, new cough, or new loss of taste or smell while in care, they will be sent home. If other children in care live in the same household, they will also be sent home at that time as a precautionary measure. While waiting to be picked up, the child(ren) will wait with a staff member in the administrative offices, away from other children and staff.
- If a staff person, household member, or a child is exposed to an individual who tests positive for COVID-19, they should self-quarantine for a period of 14 days.

## **Discontinuing Quarantine**

At least one strategy will be required before an exposed child or staff member will be allowed back into MUSA programs. Supporting documentation may be requested.

For individuals with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home:

1. Symptom-Based Strategy:
  - a. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms), **and**
  - b. At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*
2. Test-Based Strategy:
  - a. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
  - b. Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), **and**
  - c. Negative COVID-19 test results from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected 24 hours or more apart (total of two negative specimens)

For individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 but have NOT had symptoms in home isolation:

1. Time-Based Strategy:
  - a. At least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since the positive test
  - b. If symptoms develop, then the symptom-based or test-based strategy should be used.
2. Test-Based Strategy:
  - a. Negative COVID-19 results from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected 24 hours or more apart (total of two negative specimens).