



Little Lamb Test and Stay Program

January 31, 2022

Dear Little Lamb Families—

We are pleased to provide information about the new test and stay program. The Department of Early Education and Care has partnered with Neighborhood Village (a local non-profit organization who has a proven track record of supporting EEC (Early Education and Care) childcare programs with COVID-19 mitigation. We anticipate this program will be up and running beginning the week of February 7th or sooner if possible. This new initiative was announced last Thursday, and we signed up immediately. We must have all supplies in hand to implement this program at Little Lamb, we are excitedly awaiting their arrival. This test and stay program will enable us to phase out our pool testing, allowing us to serve our families more effectively by keeping healthy children and educators in school.

Here is what you need to know:

- ✓ This program is for children ages 2 years old and up. More information regarding the under 2 age group is provided at the end of this document. The rapid antigen tests are not federally approved for children under age 2.
- ✓ This program is designed to enable children to stay in care and for staff to continue to provide care when there has been exposure within our program.
- ✓ This program is not intended for children who had COVID positive exposure outside of school. If your child has exposure outside of school, they would be excluded and would follow the appropriate protocols for testing and returning to care.
- ✓ Parents must provide permission for their child to participate in the test and stay program.
- ✓ If you consent, we will conduct, or you will receive a free FDA approved Rapid Antigen test for the COVID-19 virus. Collecting a specimen for testing is non-invasive. It involves using a cotton tipped swab, like a Q-Tip, placed inside the tip of the nose.
- ✓ If you choose to opt out and there is exposure at school, your child would be excluded and need to follow the appropriate protocols for testing and returning to care.

Reasons that your child would be tested:

1. If your child is a close contact to a COVID positive individual while at school, we would test all children and teachers who were exposed and in school at that time. Children and

teachers would continue to attend school and would need to be tested every day for 5 days. While we will do the first day of testing at school, we will send home test kits for you to administer each morning prior to your child's arrival at school for days 2-5. If your child tests negative, they may stay/return to Little Lamb. Should some of the testing days fall on the weekend you should test at least one of the weekend days and then again on Monday morning prior to returning to school.

2. Symptoms—If your child exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (see list below) then we would test them at school. If they test negative and can participate fully in the school day, they can remain at school. If they test positive, they will be sent home and would follow the 10-day quarantine period.

Symptom List A:

- ✓ Fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
- ✓ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- ✓ New loss of taste or smell
- ✓ Muscle or body aches
- ✓ Vomiting or diarrhea

If a child displays one of the above symptoms not due to a known cause he/she will require immediate exclusion from care.

Return to care:

- ✓ Child can return 24 hours after symptom abates without medication, with written clearance by a healthcare provider, or a negative test.

Symptom List B (when in combination with other symptoms):

- ✓ Sore throat
- ✓ Cough (not due to a known cause)
- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Runny nose or congestion

Exclusion and Return to care:

- ✓ With permission, the child will be tested using the antigen test. Child can remain in school if the test is negative, symptoms are mild, and can participate in daily activities.
- ✓ If the child tests positive or has 2 more symptoms, they will be excluded from care
- ✓ Child can return 24 hours after symptom abates without medication with written clearance by a healthcare provider or a negative test.

Other Information:

- If a child has been fully vaccinated or diagnosed with COVID within the previous 90 days, they will only be tested if they present COVID like symptoms.
- For any child who tests positive to COVID-19, they will be excluded from care for 10 days and can return on day 11.
- You should always seek advice from your pediatrician or healthcare provider.
- Each illness, exposure or positive test is handled on a case-by-case basis.

For children ages 2 and under:

For any known exposure at school or outside of school, your child would be excluded, need to quarantine, and test on or after day 5. Your child can return to school on day 8 or after with a negative test and no COVID symptoms. Acceptable tests are a PCR or rapid administered by a healthcare provider or testing site.

Please see Flow Chart to determine when a Rapid Test or Quarantine is warranted.