

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome back! We are excited to be returning to our classrooms. Bear River Head Start staff are committed to keeping your child safe and healthy. With the outbreak of COVID-19, we have made some changes to our Exclusion Policy and drop off and pick up procedures. Following these procedures are necessary for all children, parents and staff in order to keep our centers safe and healthy for everyone.

1. **STAY HOME IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19.**  
Symptoms include, but are not limited to: fever of 100.4°F or higher, cough (if your child normally has a cough due to allergies or asthma, is this cough different?), shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle aches and pains, decrease of sense of taste or smell.
2. Daily Health Checks: Upon arrival to the center, staff and children will have temperatures checked before entering the classroom. Staff will ask parents the following COVID questions to determine if it is safe for children to enter:
  - a. Do you have any of these symptoms? \_\_\_ fever; \_\_\_ cough; \_\_\_ new or increase in shortness of breath \_\_\_; decreased sense of smell or taste \_\_\_; sore or scratchy throat \_\_\_; muscle aches and pains \_\_\_?
  - b. Has your child been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID -19 in the last 2 weeks?
3. If the staff or child has a fever or any other symptoms of COVID-19, they should return home and contact their primary health care provider to find out if you should be tested for COVID-19.
4. If the staff or child has no fever and no other symptoms of COVID, they can enter the classroom.
5. The use of masks **IS RECOMMENDED** for children or teachers in our classrooms. Children will be provided with two cloth face masks that will be washed daily and changed if they become soiled or dirty.
6. Upon entry to the classroom, children and staff will wash their hands for 20 seconds.
7. If staff or children develop symptoms of illness throughout the day, parents or emergency contacts will be notified to pick up the child **IMMEDIATELY**. Please ensure that your child's teacher has updated emergency contacts that are able to pick up your child in case of illness.
8. Your teacher will give you more information on how and where to drop off and pick up your child(ren) each day.

Please contact your child's teacher or advocate for additional questions. We appreciate your help in keeping our classrooms safe and healthy!

Bear River Head Start