



UNITED CHILDREN ACADEMY (and COVID-19)

As summer winds down for children, many childcare centres/schools are planning out COVID-19 safety protocols, as children under the age of 12 are not eligible to get vaccinated yet.

Rising COVID-19 cases and new variants have spurred concerns of transmission to children, and as a result, the Infection and Prevention Control (IPAC) is encouraging unvaccinated children older than two years old to mask up.

Introduction and Community Priorities

With concern for the well-being of those we serve in mind, we recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has required our community to collaborate in new ways, examine practices, learn new information and skills, show agility in a time of changing information, and needs, and make difficult decisions. As we transition to a less restrictive learning environment, **United Children Academy** is committed to supporting our children/students and staff, and we are guided by our beliefs that:

- Public education is the foundation of our community.
- Our actions should be children/student-centered.
- It is our responsibility to prepare /children/students for their future.
- Developing leaders is vital to our success.
- Instruction should be designed on the needs of the learners.
- Community engagement enhances educational experiences.

United Children Academy truly aspires to be home of the most inspired little ones/students, served by the most empowered leaders. We believe that this pandemic, while a unique time for our community, is an opportunity for our organization to lead, grow and serve our little ones/students, faculty, and community we love.



Instructional Information for Families

United Children Academy will be operating to fully face-to-face learning for all children/students. We are excited to welcome all of families/students to our center and anticipate offering face to face/hands on learning. We do understand, however, that some students and families may still be seeking greater flexibility with their school/work schedules due to continued health concerns.

Protocols for Safe and Healthy Childcare Centre/School

The community may need to change protocols at any time to address specific needs and circumstances to protect the health and safety of children/students, employees and the community. **United Children Academy** will continue to seek guidance from governmental agencies city of Hamilton Public Health. The center will comply with applicable federal and provincial employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address individual needs.

Protocols for Screening and Isolation

Screening Protocols

- Neither staff nor children/students should report to center/school/work if they have fever or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Absences should be reported to the center or staff supervisor.
- Employee questions regarding absence procedures should be directed to staff supervisors.

Isolation Protocols

- If children/students display symptoms of COVID-19 or are feeling feverish, the center/school supervisor/director will provide a COVID-19 assessment to determine when a child/student needs to be sent home.
- If an individual who has been in a center/school or facility is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the center/school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, provincial, and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements.
- Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be permitted to return to center/school when they have documented the following requirements:
 - They are 1 day (24 hours) fever-free without using fever-reducing medication.
 - Improved symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing, etc.); and
 - 10 days have passed since symptoms began.
- Positive cases will be reported to staff and families with children in the same classroom.

Protocols for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Childcare Centers are required to comply with the authority's executive orders regarding the wearing of masks.

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Washing

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will contribute to the positive health and wellness of children/students and staff.



Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations

- Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry of the facility as well as in the classroom/bathrooms and other common areas.
- Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.

Protocols for Facility/Centre Cleaning and Disinfecting

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for children/students and staff. The center will continue to supply adequate cleaning and disinfectant supplies for all centre's facilities. Staff will be trained on Centre's protocols before the first day of school.