**UCI Child Care Services Illness Policy—COVID-19**

The health and well-being of our families and staff is our highest priority. In the interest of limiting the opportunity for transmission in our child care community, while understanding and supporting parents’ needs to work and go to school, we will be implementing the following COVID-19 illness policy:

**COVID-19 Symptoms:**

**Low Risk: General Symptoms**

* Fever of 100.4 F or higher
* Congestion/runny nose
* Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
* Sore throat
* Headache
* Fatigue/muscle or body aches

**High-Risk: Red Flag Symptoms**

* Cough
* Difficulty breathing
* Loss of taste and smell

**EXCLUSION AND RETURN TO CENTER POLICIES:**

If a child of **any age** has **one low risk symptom,** they may return to school after at least 24 hours have passed and symptoms have improved. Consistent with our current illness policy, a fever must be gone for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication) and vomiting and/or diarrhea must have been gone for 24 hours in order for a child to return to school.

If a child **age two and over** has **two low risk symptoms** or **one high risk symptom,** they may return to school after they have stayed home for at least 24 hours, have a negative COVID test (antigen/rapid or PCR) and symptoms have improved. UCI Child Care Services will not be collecting test results. Parents will be asked to self-attest that the child is negative for COVID-19 upon return**.** If the child is negative for COVID-19and the symptoms have not improved in 24 hours, a child may return to school with a medical clearance, indicating that symptoms are not contagious and/or the symptom is due to a pre-existing condition (such as allergies).

If a child **under age two** has **two low risk symptoms or one high risk symptom**, they may return to school after they have stayed home for at least 24 hours and symptoms have improved. If symptoms have not improved in 24 hours, a child may return to school with a medical clearance indicating that symptoms are not contagious and/or the symptoms are due to a pre-existing condition (such as allergies). **Covid testing is not recommended for children under the age of two**.

**For your child’s comfort and to reduce the risk of contagion, we ask that children be picked up within 30 minutes of notification of symptoms**.  Until then, your child will be isolated and kept comfortable, and will continue to be observed for symptoms.

If your child has a pre-existing condition that presents with low-risk or high-risk COVID symptoms, we encourage you to obtain a note from your child’s pediatrician that we can keep in their file.

**Close Contact to COVID-19 or COVID-19 Positivity:**

**If your child tests positive for COVID-19 or is a close contact to a positive case (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period), please contact your child’s center director as soon as possible.** The center director will contact the UCI Contact Tracing Team, who will consult with Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) and we will follow their guidance accordingly.

4/14/22 Revise