

Little Oaks Opening FAQs – Updated 5/22/20

*Enhanced protocols are subject to updates and changes based on CDC recommendations.
Effective 6/1/20*

How will children be dropped off and picked up?

A tent to offer coverage into the entry of the building will be in place to shelter families from rain. Families will complete a health check with a screener prior to drop off. After the family completes the health check a designated staff member will escort the child into the center and to their classroom. Children will immediately wash their hands upon entry into classroom in addition to the designated staff member. Parents will not be signing their child in/out on the kiosk. The center will sign the child in and out daily for the family.

Pick up: The center leadership will notify the classroom of their parent's arrival and a designated staff member will escort them to the front door/lobby area. If families arrive at the same time, we request that they leave 6 feet between families in line. We recommend arriving at the center a little early to ensure you are able to drop off your child and get to your next destination on time.

Are families required to wear face coverings when they come to the center for drop off and pick up? Yes, all adults at the center are expected to wear face coverings.

Who will be allowed in the center during operational hours? Nonessential visitors are not permitted in the center. With the enhanced protocols in place the only adults that will be in your child's classroom throughout the day will be the children's teacher. Parents will not be permitted beyond the lobby. The only exception to this is if you are nursing. If you are nursing your child's teacher will escort your child to the lobby for you to use the nursing room. All adults must be wearing a mask in addition to following sanitation guidelines after use of the nursing room.

Meals:

Families will now be responsible for packing lunch for children daily. The center will provide individual prepackaged snacks for the children offered in the morning, afternoon and evening.

By having families bringing meals, it is reducing the shipment of food/vendors into the center, the preparation in the kitchen and the movement of dishes food in and out of classrooms.

Will there be the ability for teachers to heat food up or should we pack cold lunches? Teachers will not have the ability to heat food up for children. Microwave usage is prohibited per licensing and Bright Horizons policies. We recommend a thermos if you would like to keep your child's food warm.

To minimize risk of exposure, at this time toasters will not be available for warming toast/waffles breakfast or lunch for children.

Will you provide a list of what foods are not allowed to be packed so we are careful of food allergies? Currently the center is nut free. Please notify the director of any concern of allergy for your child so we can adjust if needed.

How are the meals being distributed? Meals will not be provided. Snacks will be individually wrapped and delivered outside the classroom door for teachers to bring into the room. We will no longer be offering family style dining and all snacks will be portioned by the teacher. In addition, we will be spacing children out as much as possible.

Do you have a common refrigerator? We are asking that you bring your child's lunch in an insulated lunch box. We will not have the capability to store all lunches in the classroom refrigerators.

Will tuition remain the same?

The tuition rates will remain the same. The Oakland County contract with Bright Horizons includes a 5% tuition increase every May. Oakland County and Bright Horizons have agreed to not place the 5% tuition increase cost (effective 5/1/2020) on employees and Oakland County is offsetting this cost. Additionally, costs for additional caregivers/staffing and safety protocols has increased center costs. Oakland County is also assisting to offset these costs so the center can open to families returning to work.

How will Bright Horizons limit the people my child come will have contact with throughout the day? Staff will be assigned a designated classroom. Each classroom will have the appropriate amount of teacher so they will be able to give each other bathroom breaks in addition to lunch breaks and maintain ratio. Classrooms will be limited to ten children maximum in each room, offering more room and space between children.

Will Children be required to wear face mask? At this point there are many restrictions and guidelines around the use of masks or face coverings for children which is why face mask will not be required for children of any age.

Why doesn't Bright Horizons require children to wear face coverings while in care?

We have been following the evolving guidance from the CDC, federal, state and local health agencies.

Starting with some basic facts about face coverings, they are;

- Not intended to protect the wearer
- Meant to prevent an infected individual from spreading the disease to others
- NOT a substitute for social distancing
- Should NOT be placed on:
 - Children under the age of 2 years
 - Anyone with difficulty breathing
 - Anyone unable to remove without assistance

To be worn safely and effectively the wearer must:

- Wash hands before putting it on and fit it securely
- Wear it consistently
- Not touch the face covering and if touched, the wearer's hands must be immediately washed
- Remove carefully and wash hands after removal
- Place dirty face coverings in a sealed container and wash daily

*When in care, face coverings **cannot** be worn for a significant part of the day:*

- During nap time
- During meals
- When active outdoors

In addition to the extent of time that children will not be able to wear face coverings, we have also considered the following features of our care settings that might be associated with increased risk of exposure if children wore face coverings.

- Teachers will be forced to be in close contact with children frequently (even on a 1:1 basis) to ensure the face coverings are properly fitted, worn consistently and not touched
- Children wearing face coverings may touch their face more frequently
- Children may touch each other's face coverings and remove their face coverings, leaving them where other children may touch or wear them

Thus, we have made the determination that face coverings, on balance, will not make our classes safer when considered against the additional risks they present.

To provide a safe and healthy environment, we are relying on our strict exclusion policies for households, our regular health screening, increased disinfection and social distancing practices. Introducing children in face coverings could quickly render these more proven and effective strategies against the spread of COVID-19 ineffective.

Is staff maintaining social distancing? How?

The adults in the center are asked to maintain distancing to the extent possible while caring for a group of children. During breaks staff are required to be socially distanced. All employees will be in face coverings while working, the same group of teachers work together all day and do not switch classrooms.

Are you keeping children 6 feet apart? How?

During meal times, naps and teacher-directed activities children will be spread out as much as possible. They will be with the same group of children all day and will not move between groups or use enrichment or other ancillary rooms in the building. Outside times will allow for a minimum of 30 minutes between groups.

Will enrichment areas (ex. Movement Matters Zone) be used? They will not be used because we are not sharing spaces among multiple groups of children.

What is the protocol if a child or staff has a fever? 14-day exclusion from the center. **After the expiration of the 14-day exclusion period** under the COVID-19 policy, a return to the center is permitted provided:

- At least 10 days have passed since any household member first experienced symptoms; AND
- Symptoms have improved for any household member who experienced symptoms (ex., cough or shortness of breath has improved); AND
- The household has been fever-free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
- **Non-COVID-19 Related Illness**
- In the case of an exclusion under the Illness Policy, if medical clearance is provided by a physician indicating that the presenting symptoms are associated with a known non-COVID-19 illness, the household can return once the household has been fever-free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine and provided no one in the household is experiencing symptoms. The physician's note must not be from a family member.

Are we required to pay if the child has been excluded from care due to an illness? We will partner with each family to determine next steps regarding enrollment.

Will we be notified of any positive staff or student cases? Yes, families and employees will be notified of any potential exposure risk.

Will staff continuously be tested for the virus? Staff will be offered the testing to be completed bi-weekly.

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