



March 6, 2020

To: All RFCC Program Participants & Staff

From: Dick Chappell – Executive Director, RF Community Center

DC

Re: COVID – 19

As news reports indicate, since the coronavirus (COVID-19) is continuing to spread and most recently has begun to impact communities in the United States, this communication is intended to provide information about steps the Community Center has taken and to share information about guidance for disease prevention.

Since December, Community Center staff have been cleaning classroom equipment and disinfecting surfaces multiple times each day to minimize the risk of spreading any virus. In addition to these steps, the Community Center's contractual janitorial service and the OPRFHS custodial staff also clean and disinfect the classrooms, bathrooms and kitchen areas each night during the week as part of their daily cleaning routine.

As always, the Community Center will continue to rely on our families to inform us about any cases of confirmed or suspected infectious disease, including COVID-19. Please share that information with the Child Care Director or Assistant Director so we can alert other families to watch for potential symptoms in their child.

Most importantly, per DCFS guidelines, a participant or staff member who has, or is suspected of having, an infectious disease or illness is expected to **REMAIN HOME** until they are free of fever, diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours without any medication. As a reminder, the following is an excerpt from the RFCC Parent Handbook that was given to participants at the time of enrollment:

The Center takes precautions to minimize the spread of illnesses including frequent hand washing and disinfecting toys daily. If a child appears to be ill or is unable to participate in the majority of the daily activities, the parent/guardian will be called and the child will be sent home.

Keep your child home (or they will be sent home) if they have:

- A fever or have had a fever of 101° during the previous 24 hours
- Heavy nasal discharge or a constant cough (not associated with allergies)
- Intestinal disturbances accompanied by diarrhea or vomiting
- Loss of appetite or are very lethargic
- Symptoms that could be a communicable disease (e.g.: unidentified rash or sores, headache, sore throat, red itchy or crusty eyes, lice).

A doctor's note may be required before a child can return to the program to verify they are not contagious and are well enough to participate in a group care setting. Please consider that children who return to group care while convalescing are more susceptible to relapse or to contract other illnesses.

Due to the potential severity of the COVID-19 virus, a child who exhibits symptoms associated with the virus must be picked up within an hour of notification. Failure to do so can result in the immediate suspension of a child from the RFCC program.



The Community Center will continue to monitor information from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the local health departments and communicate any additional information as necessary.

Additionally, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following steps everyone can take to reduce the risk of acquiring or spreading any disease, including COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, especially with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Get the flu shot

For additional information about the coronavirus (COVID-19), please click on the links below:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus

Thank you for your ongoing support. Stay healthy and well!