

Parent Handbook COVID Addendum

In light of the unique and difficult challenges and concerns posed by the recent COVID-19 public health crisis, Early Childhood Center (“ECC” or “We”) has amended its Parent Handbook for 2021-2022 to implement the enclosed policies. All other provisions of the Handbook shall remain in full force and effect.

We understand that this is an unprecedented time for our community and we will be making reasonable efforts to ensure the safety of our staff, children and families, including through the introduction and enforcement of these new policies. We will continue to monitor the situation and may add to, or modify, any ECC policies, including these, as we believe may be necessary and appropriate.

Although we are seeking to make reasonable efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19, you should be aware that the novel and highly infectious nature of the disease and the limited availability and effectiveness of detection and countermeasures, necessarily limit our ability to detect or to prevent the spread of the disease. Accordingly, we are not in a position to offer assurances about the effectiveness of our response. **As a condition of your child’s enrollment at ECC, all parents and guardians will be required to sign the enclosed Release and Waiver, which includes acknowledgment of this Parent Handbook COVID Addendum.**

Public Health Emergency Closures

While we hope that it will not become necessary, there may be instances when it will become necessary for the school to close as the result of a public health emergency, such as the COVID-19 outbreak. Among other things, such circumstances may include instances when ECC is required or believes it to be in the best interests of the ECC and its staff and attendees to close ECC in order to comply with the orders, directives or recommendations of Federal, state or local government or health authorities or when ECC determines that closure is required or advisable to address a confirmed or suspected outbreak amongst ECC staff or children.

Please be advised that, in the event that the Early Childhood Center must close for any period of time due to a public health emergency, refunds will only be issued in conformity with our Business Continuity Plan. However, in some instances, tuition for those periods may be credited as a donation as we are a nonprofit 501(c)(3).

The circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are rapidly changing. We reserve the right to adopt additional instructions, restrictions and guidelines (“Guidelines”) pertaining to COVID-19 as, in our view, may be necessary or required to protect our safety and that of others.

COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have identified the following as common symptoms of COVID-19 (check CDC.gov for the latest information):

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Chills or shaking chills
- Muscle aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose

Families must promptly notify ECC in the event that any member of a child's household(s) has tested positive for COVID-19, is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or is known or believed to have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Following such event, under no circumstances should the child or any other member of the household enter the school (including picking up or dropping off attendants) until the recommended period of self-quarantine has been completed or it has been otherwise confirmed by a qualified doctor that no members of the household are infected with COVID-19. ECC will work directly with any affected or potentially affected families to provide direction and guidance as when the child may return to school. Such requirements may change based on the most recent guidance from the CDC and other authorities.

In addition, children may not come to school if they or any member of the household are experiencing fever or symptoms of COVID-19 or any other contagious illness. Children may return only when they (or the affected member of their household) are fever and symptom free for not less than 72 hours. In certain cases, a child may be able to return sooner than 72 hours if they can provide medical evidence satisfactory to ECC that they have no risk of being contagious and will not constitute a hazard to ECC or members of the ECC community.

Child or Family Member Travel

Until further notice, families must promptly notify the school in the event that a child or any member of the child's household(s) will be traveling outside of the United States or to any location (including within the United States) that is experiencing a substantial number of cases (such as an area that is on a "lockdown program," a "Stay At Home Order," or "Safer at Home" program.) Depending on the means and destination of travel, ECC may require that the child be kept home until a reasonable period of time has elapsed after the child or a member of the household has returned from travel. As the current COVID-19 pandemic is an evolving situation, we encourage all families to discuss possible travel and any stay at home period that may be required thereafter, with ECC prior to finalizing their travel plans.

Maryland Department of Health (MDH) strongly recommends that all Marylanders refrain from nonessential travel outside of Maryland due to the recent increase in COVID-19 infections in other states. Any Marylander returning from out-of-travel should get tested for COVID-19 promptly upon arrival in Maryland. Any Marylander who travels to a state with a COVID-19 test positivity rate above 10% should get tested and self-quarantine at home until the test result is received. The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia are exempt from this recommendation. A list of state COVID-19 test positivity rates can be found using the [CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#). Essential workers are exempt from the quarantine recommendation if they are returning or traveling to Maryland to perform essential work, as well as employee commuters who leave/enter the state on a daily basis and have work-based COVID-19 screening procedures. Please refer to the MDH Travel Advisory for additional details. CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential international travel because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Persons returning from international travel should follow CDC guidance regarding quarantine following travel.

Release and Waiver

THIS IS A RELEASE. PLEASE FULLY REVIEW IT CAREFULLY. BY SIGNING IT, YOU ARE AGREEING TO GIVE UP ANY RIGHTS YOU OR YOUR CHILD MAY HAVE TO SEEK RECOVERY FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC) AND INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH ECC RESULTING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

The undersigned acknowledges that we have received and reviewed the 2021-2022 COVID Addendum in the Early Childhood Center (“ECC”) Parent Handbook and Business Continuity Plan and that we understand and agree to abide by these policies. We specifically acknowledge and agree to ECC’s policy on refunds in the event of closures for public health emergencies.

In consideration for our child(ren)’s continued enrollment at the Early Childhood Center and receipt of services from the Early Childhood Center we further agree to release and protect ECC as follows:

- We acknowledge that allowing or permitting our child(ren) and/or members of our family to enter ECC or the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville (“UUCR”) property and/or to participate in ECC programs is done voluntarily, at our sole risk.
- On behalf of ourselves and our child(ren) attending ECC, we hereby forever release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue the Early Childhood Center, UUCR, their respective officers, staff, employees, volunteers, agents and representatives (“Releasees”) from and against any and all liabilities, claims, demands, suits and other causes of action of any kind or nature, regardless of when or how incurred, including, but not limited to, any and all claims of negligence and claims arising out of, or related to any loss of property or health or personal injury, including death (“Claims”), that our child or any member of our family may sustain from contracting, or being exposed to COVID-19, as the result of, or in any way related to, our child(ren), any member of our family or any third party entering ECC/UUCR property or participating in Early Childhood Center programs.
- We acknowledge that, in addition to the amendments to the ECC Parent Handbook, from time to time ECC may communicate instructions, restrictions and guidelines (“Guidelines”) pertaining to COVID-19. We agree to follow and to cause our child(ren) to follow any such Guidelines for our own personal safety, the safety of our child(ren), as well as the safety of others. We understand that failure by us or our child(ren) to follow the Guidelines may result in the discontinuance or suspension of our ability to attend ECC/UUCR property or participate in ECC programs without refund.
- We understand and agree that we are not relying on ECC to have arranged for or to carry any insurance of any kind for our benefit or the benefit of our child(ren) relative to our entering ECC/UUCR property or participating in ECC programs. We understand that we are solely responsible for procuring any and all necessary or desired insurance (including medical insurance) for ourselves and our child(ren).
- We agree to fully inform any individual that we may ask or direct to enter the ECC/UUCR property (including without limitation any individual picking up or dropping off a child at our request) of the contents of this Release and Waiver and to procure their agreement to the same.

- We agree to indemnify and hold each of the Releasees harmless from and against any and all Covid-19 related Claims (including costs and attorney fees) made by us, our child(ren) and/or any individual picking up or dropping off our child(ren), to the full extent that those Claims are connected in any way to the representations we have made in this Release and Waiver, our or our child(ren) entering ECC/UUCR property and/or our or our child(ren) participating in ECC programs.
- We acknowledge and agree that this Release and Waiver shall be binding on our family members, heirs, assigns, personal representatives and anyone else entitled to act on our, or our child(ren)'s, behalf.
- We agree that if any portion of this Release and Waiver is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.
- This Release and Waiver shall remain effective regardless of any decision not to continue to enroll our child in the Early Childhood Center.
- This Release and Waiver shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland.

By signing below, we acknowledge that (a) we have read and fully understand the foregoing Release and Waiver; (b) we are 18 years of age or older; (c) we are the legal guardians of the minor child(ren) identified below; (d) the information provided is true; and (e) of our own free will we consent and agree to all of the foregoing on behalf of ourselves and our minor child(ren) identified below.

	Parent / Guardian #1	Parent / Guardian #2
Signature:	_____	_____
Name:	_____	_____
Date:	_____	_____

Please note that both parents/guardians must sign this form except in the case of single parent families. A completed form must be returned to the office prior to your child's first day at the Early Childhood Center.

MINOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

_____	_____
Name	Age
_____	_____
Name	Age
_____	_____
Name	Age