

COVID-19 and Friendly House PreSchool & Day Care FAQs

Updated 9/24/2021

Parents, please read our COVID-19 guidelines/FAQs below. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Friendly House. As the situation warrants, Friendly House will update COVID-19 protocols as recommended by the Ohio Department of Health and Richland Public Health.

- **Will PreSchool/Day Care close due to COVID-19?**

We will follow the guidelines of the Ohio Department of Health and our local Richland Health Department. If mandated or due to the decision of the Friendly House Board of Managers and/or the Director of Friendly House, we may close at any time to ensure the health and safety of our staff and children. As a parent it is your responsibility to have a back up plan for child care.

- **How many children are you able to host at Friendly House?**

Due to the restrictions placed on us from Responsible Restart Ohio we have a very limited capacity. Friendly House Day Care is offered to returning children of working parents and then on a first come first serve basis. If restrictions ease over the summer and we are able to allow additional children we will accommodate as many children as possible. We will run a wait list based upon the time applications are returned. There will be no refunds for selective non-attendance.

- **Does the parent or guardian have to be working for my child to register for Day Care?**

Yes. Due to our very limited capacity we are offering working parents space first. The parent or guardian must be able to provide their most recent pay stub (pay amount may be blocked out), your manager's name and phone number. We must get verbal confirmation from your employer. If we are unable to confirm employment, your child's spot will be given to another child.

- **What is Friendly House doing to make sure my children are safe while under our care?**

Friendly House has changed our policy and procedures to be inline with the Ohio Department of Health's Responsible RestartOhio guidelines for Child Care. Friendly House is following the Responsible Protocols for getting Ohio back to work including: Requiring face coverings for employees, conducting daily health assessments, maintaining good hygiene, keeping our facilities clean and sanitized, and limiting capacity. Please follow procedures outlined on your child's first day. Questions should be directed to the teacher helping you check your child in to care. The link to the RestartOhio Child Care file can be found here:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Sector-fact-sheet-8-Child-Care.pdf>

- **What is the child to staff ratio?**

We must maintain one staff member per nine children with no more than 12 per area/room/group.

- **Will my child be required to wear a face mask?**

With the current increase in COVID-19 we require everyone inside the building to wear a mask. Staff will be required to wear a mask at all times. Children and staff in the Afterschool Program are required to wear a mask.

- **What if my child or someone else in the household has been quarantined due to a possible COVID-19 exposure (not exposed at Friendly House)?**

If anyone in the household has been quarantined due to a possible COVID-19 exposure, no child from that household may attend Friendly House programs until the quarantine period has ended. If there are siblings attending Friendly House in different programs, if one child is quarantined, none of the siblings may attend until the quarantine period has ended. If a parent is quarantined, none of the children may attend until the quarantine period has ended.

- ***What if my child is ill?***

Do not send your child if they are ill. At drop off parents will be asked Health Screening Questions and the child's temperature will be taken. If your child has a temp over 100 degrees they may not attend that day and may not return until they are fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication. For example: if your child is sent home on Tuesday, they may return on Thursday, if fever conditions are met. If the child or any family member has had any contact with a person confirmed or probable to have COVID-19, he or she must complete isolation or quarantine procedures in coordination with the local health department prior to returning to the program for two weeks.

- ***What is the refund policy if my child is ill?***

All refunds are at the discretion of the Friendly House Director.

- ***Will my child be able to wash hands while at Friendly House?***

Yes, there are restrooms in Day Care. Children are asked to wash hands upon arrival for the day, after breaks, and upon returning from activities, after toileting, before eating, when visibly soiled and before being picked up.

- ***What will happen if there is a confirmed COVID-19 case while my child is attending Friendly House?***

Friendly House is required to immediately notify ODJFS in writing if an employee or child test positive for COVID-19. If anyone shows any symptoms of illness that child will be isolated and be required to be picked up immediately by a parent or guardian. The area that the ill person used will be shut down and sanitized before reopening.

- ***Will Friendly House close if there is a COVID-19 case identified?***

Friendly House will follow the directives from the Ohio Department of Health and Richland Health.

- ***What symptoms will disqualify my child from attending?***

Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever 100 degrees or higher, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell. Not all symptoms are required to be disqualified.

- ***Is my child able to bring their own lunch?***

Friendly House will be providing nutritious meals including milk and a snack for each child.

- ***Is my child able to leave any personal items at Friendly House during the week?***

ALL personal items must be taken home every day. The only items that may be left are blankets and a pillow.