**Illness Policy and Procedures**

**It is required that I and each household member do daily temperature readings. It is also required to do a temperature check at drop off and pick up each day of each child and their parent.** No child will be admitted if they or their parent has a fever of 100.4 or higher. No child will be admitted if they have a consistent cough or difficulty breathing, or any exclusive symptoms listed in my handbook or on the DCFS website. Children with symptoms will be excluded for a minimum of 48 hours and fever free without the aid of fever reducing medication. Children with family members who have a fever of 100.4 or higher and symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend until the family member is healthy and or can provide a note from their doctor clearing them of COVID-19.

**If any children or their family members test positive for COVID-19**, I will notify my DCFS licensing representative and after notifying DCFS and or any medical professionals and agencies involved, a determination will be made as to whether or not I will have to close and for how long. I will follow whatever guidelines regarding closure from the Department of health DCFS IDPH or the local health department and give them any information they require regarding contact or absences. The cook county health department will provide their requirements for guidance and support needed. I will forward any information to all my families in writing within 24 hours of any confirmed COVID-19 exposure. Any child who tests positive or has been exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19 must remain at home for a minimum of 14 days and shall be excluded from daycare until written documentation is provided by the child's physician that the child is no longer communicable and may return to daycare. I will also, as always, contact parents if any other contagious or communicable disease or condition has been introduced into my day care home. All families will be encouraged to seek professional medical care if any symptoms of infectious disease or conditions are present. If a child becomes ill /exhibits symptoms they will be isolated, and parents will be required to return to my home to pick up their child immediately.

**If I become ill**, all parents will be notified immediately and my home will be closed for up to 72 (3 days) hours to accommodate any testing or doctor visits necessary, to allow for recovery and to clean and sanitize the home. household members test positive we will close for 14 days and will not be opened until we have been cleared by a physician and written in document that we are no longer communicable and may return to daycare.

**Temperature Check for Parent and Child**

It is required that I record the temperature of each child and their parents at time of arrival. I will conduct visual and verbal health check and temperature screening with a non-contact thermometer, which I will record in my daily attendance log. The thermometer will be sanitized after every use.

**Use of masks / PPE Plan**

Masks or face shields must be worn by parents and children over the age of 2 when arriving and leaving my home for the day. All children 2 and under must not wear any face coverings. Masks/face shields will be used by the provider and household members inside the day care home during hours of operations and when within 6 feet of others. Masks/face shields may be worn by children during day care hours inside the home when tolerable. They must not be worn during naps or at mealtime. I will provide face shields that will be labeled with your child's name. If you prefer your child wear a mask you must provide that and take it home each evening to sterilize it for the following day or supply disposable masks. I will provide a labeled paper bag r mask storage for each child. If your child refuses to wear a mask I will not force them to wear it and you will be informed. I will use gloves when necessary and also have gloves available for children. They will be stored in their individual cubbies in labeled bags and replaced after use. Handshaking or physical contact will not be permitted between provider, parents or children.

**Sanitation**

Toys and day care room surfaces will be cleaned and or sanitized as needed throughout the day and each evening. Surface and high touch areas including but not limited to tables, toys, light switches, doorknobs sink faucets, toilet seats, toilet handles, and bathroom counter tops will be cleaned and sanitized as needed throughout the day and evening. Provider will use a germicidal solution approved by the CDC. No stuffed animals or plush toys will be used or made available to children during this time.

Signs will be posted with CDC hand washing guidelines and COVID-19 precautions in visible locations throughout the home where childcare is provided, including hand washing areas accessible to provider household members and enrolled children and all other authorized persons. Signs will be posted throughout the home where childcare is provided including where children are dropped off and picked up, describing ways to prevent the spread of germs.

**Medical Evidence**

Provider and all members of household will provide medical evidence as required by section 406.24(1) that they are free of reportable communicable diseases and providers evidence must also show they are free from any physical or mental conditions that could interfere with childcare responsibilities. Provider and household members are not required to be tested for COVID-19 to reopen.

**Drop Off and Pick Up**

Parents and caregiver will observe social distancing with no physical contact with provider and or other parents or children during times of transition. Only one parent may be at the door home with their child/children. Only one family at a time is permitted at the entry door for drop off and pick up. If you arrive while another family is here please wait in your vehicle until they have their children safely in their vehicle before exiting yours. Parents and children over the age of 2 must wear a mask or face shield when entering and leaving the daycare. Children 2 or younger must not wear any face covering.

All parents must remain in the entry door area with at all times. Children will be required to remove shoes and the provider will spray them with a disinfecting solution. Outer wear will be placed in individual cubbies; no toys from the children’s home will be allowed. They will then wash their hands property under my supervision before entering play areas or greeting other children. Each child will be required to wash their hands as needed throughout the day and again at pick up before putting their mask on to leave. Touched surfaces in entryway and door will be sanitized when pended after each arrival. For these reasons I ask that you keep your transition time as brief as possible to allow me to complete these tasks.

When parents drop their child off, they must be able to answer these questions:

1. Do you or any other member of your household have a fever of 100.4 or higher or are experiencing excessive and or persistent couching, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, loss of taste or smell?
2. To the best of your knowledge have you or any member of your household traveled anywhere there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19? If yes, when and where?
3. Have you or any member of your household been in contact or at risk of infection from any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 f so, when?

This will be noted in the daily attendance log.

A sign will be posted outside entrance prohibiting entry for anyone with symptoms of illness, including respiratory infection

**Nap time/ bedding**

Each child is provided with their own nap time bedding and that will be changed out, laundered, and or sanitized **daily** and also when soiled and stored separately from other bedding. Each child will nap in the same space every day. All sleeping areas will provide that children are napping at least 6 feet apart. Cots, cribs and sofas will be cleaned and or sanitized each evening. Nap areas will be prepared during lunchtime right before nap and will be taken up as soon as nap time is over. No stuffed animals or plush toys will be available for play during this time.

**Tours, visitors and interviews**

If new clients contact me with interest in using my services, I will start the interview process over the phone or via email and text. I will email my policy and procedure handbook including new COVID-19 policies and after they have read everything, we can continue the process via phone/ email/text. When they wish to schedule a home visit it must be after hours or over the weekend. Visits must remain brief and social distancing will be enforced, and masks must be worn when visiting the home. I will have all papers ready for registration and they can be taken and filled out and will have a signed at home before returning.