



Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions: Classrooms

Why is Alexa's PLAYC still open?

We realize that now, more than ever, families need our help. We are an essential service for hardworking families, and we are dedicated to providing employment/benefits for our staff. Our staff are following a series of health and safety guidelines to ensure we keep our centers as safe and clean as possible ensuring the health and safety of children in our care. We're also working closely with the CDC, Rady Children's Hospital Infection Control, Community Care Licensing, and State and local health departments to respond as quickly as possible to the latest guidance and direction.

Why are the reduced hours of operations still in effect?

Our reduced hours will remain 8:00-5:30, due to guidelines surrounding classroom grouping. At this time, we no longer have the ability to combine classrooms for early and late pick-up, as this increases risks especially if there is a **Covid-19** positive child or staff member.

Why is Alexa's PLAYC still using the playground?

It is clear that the virus is not going anywhere anytime soon, and fresh air and physical exercise are important to the children's health. Based on recent guidelines, we have reintroduced having multiple classrooms share a playground space simultaneously.

If a positive case of COVID-19 is reported within a Classroom what happens next?

We are following public health department guidelines more closely now that vaccines are available for all attendees of Alexa's PLAYC. **This means that children are no longer required to quarantine when there is a school exposure.** Instead, families will be notified as soon as possible of an exposure in the classroom. Families will have the option to continue to send their children to school **if they are asymptomatic.** Any child that has been exposed and is symptomatic should quarantine and complete an antigen (at-home test) or PCR test; if the test is negative, the child can return to school once they are 24 hours symptom free. Children who have been COVID positive in the last 90 days do not require testing.

If your child tests positive, they can return to school as early as Day 6 after the onset of symptoms (Day 0 is the first sign of the cold) with a **negative home test that is administered at school.** **If your child is still positive on a home test or you choose not to test, they can return on Day 11.** As has been true throughout the pandemic, we are heavily relying on you to keep your children home at the first sign of cold symptoms. All children with cold symptoms will be required to **take an antigen (at-home test) or PCR test.** Please inform the center of your negative results before returning to school. PCR testing at RCHSD is still available on a limited basis and can be scheduled through your child's RCHSD MyChart account.

What about exposures at home or in the community?

Since home exposures present a higher risk, we will continue to require a 5-day quarantine whenever there is an exposure to COVID outside of the Center (e.g., friends and family). **Children will be able to return to school on Day 5 after the exposure if they are asymptomatic** (Day 0 is the last day the child had contact with the person who tested positive). If the person who is sick cannot quarantine away from the child (e.g., sibling,

caregiver), the child cannot return to school until 5 days after the person who is COVID positive tests negative on a home test. For example:

Howard's dad got sick on 7/4 and could not quarantine away from Howard. Howard's dad continues to home test periodically until he finally tests negative on 7/10. Howard is eligible to return to the Center on 7/15 if he is symptom free.

How would we be notified about classroom exposures?

A notice will be posted on the outside of the door on any classroom with the exposure date and an explanation of COVID symptoms and family responsibilities.

How does Alexa's PLAYC make decisions regarding coronavirus?

We're working closely with the CDC, Rady Children's Hospital Infection Control, Community Care Licensing, and State and local health departments to respond as quickly as possible to the latest guidance and direction.

How does coronavirus spread?

The CDC is a good resource for the latest information on how coronavirus spreads. Coronavirus (also known as **COVID-19**) is still a relatively new disease, and we continue to learn about how it spreads and the severity of illness it causes and its long-term effects.

Am I at risk for coronavirus?

This is a rapidly evolving situation, and the CDC risk assessment may change daily. The latest updates are available on CDC's website.

Keeping our Children and Staff Safe and Healthy

How are you keeping children safe and healthy in your Center?

We're partnering with local health departments, Rady Children's Hospital Infection Control, Community Care Licensing and are closely monitoring the latest updates from the CDC and WHO to ensure we're following their guidance on the most up-to-date recommendations. In our centers, we're practicing the following actions:

- Diligently following our hygiene and cleaning procedures, including disinfecting high-touch surfaces like door handles, and sanitizing more frequently.
- Continuing to emphasize the importance of hand washing that is aligned with the CDC recommended 20-second hand washing techniques and reinforcing this action with children multiple times throughout the day.
- Requiring staff to wear hospital grade masks when interacting with children. Note that, at this time, children are no longer required to wear masks. If you would like your child to wear a mask in the Classroom, please let your Classroom teachers know.
- Asking for parent partnership in keeping our sites free of illness by abiding by county guidelines to keep our children safe and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. **These measures include keeping your child home if they are ill and keeping them home until they are 24 hours symptom free to help prevent the spread of disease.**

How does coronavirus affect children?

The CDC has the most up to date and reliable information on coronavirus's impact on children.

What if a child or teacher shows symptoms associated with coronavirus while they are at the center?

If a child or teacher begins to show symptoms of coronavirus (runny nose, cough, fever of 99.6 or higher, etc.) or any other illness, they will be asked to return home. Any individual with symptoms will also be required to

take a **COVID antigen (at-home) or PCR test**. The PCR test results can be emailed or shown to admin staff upon return. Additionally, any individual with illness symptoms must remain **symptom free for 24 hours** before returning to school or work. We'll continue to be diligent about enforcing our existing policy of excluding sick children and employees. While we understand the additional burden this may cause, staying home when sick is one of the best ways to stop illness from spreading.

Is Alexa's PLAYC doing what's necessary to procure the necessary cleaning supplies?

Yes, we have all the necessary supplies available in all our centers provided through the hospital. If you have any concerns, please contact our director.

Are you hiring a professional vendor to clean the center? Are you going to do a deep clean?

We're diligently cleaning and disinfecting the center throughout the day, as well as regularly practicing the handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Our professional cleaners will maintain their schedule and clean the center each evening.