

**eliminating racism
empowering women**

ywca

Central Maine

September 18, 2020

Dear Childcare Families,

Thank you so very much for choosing YWCA Central Maine for your childcare needs. With schools re-opening this fall, we look forward to an engaging, fun, and healthy school year.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Our health and safety plan for the school year includes continuing to teach and reinforce good personal hygiene by washing hands frequently and covering all coughs and sneezes with elbows and/or clothing. Staff and children in our school age program are required to wear face masks, and we are encouraging physical distancing by keeping our childcare groups small and using all approved indoor and outdoor areas of our building. We will continue to disinfect high contact areas multiple times a day, including nap mats, tables, toys, door knobs, and floors. All meals for the children will be served in small group settings, either in the classrooms for preschoolers or gym/outside for the school age children.

As Maine continues to open, we are still restricting the amount of foot traffic throughout the building. The only people allowed into the YWCA will be YWCA staff, families dropping off or picking (in lobby only), and approved aquatics patrons. We require that our staff stay home, if they are sick or have come into contact with anyone to have COVID-19. At drop-off, caregivers will be required to verbally complete a short COVID-19 questionnaire which will be recorded by YWCA staff. Temperatures will be checked for all visitors, including children.

REMOTE LEARNING

As most of our families know, area schools are participating in hybrid model learning to reduce virus-transmission rates among children and staff in schools. In recognizing the need for childcare, we will provide before/after school and full day childcare for families.

During full day childcare at the YWCA, children will login to remote learning. Since we will provide as much guidance and educational support to children participating in their virtual classrooms as possible, we ask that your child(ren) bring in the following items;

- Laptop
- Paper packets (Provide to families from schools until laptops arrive)
- Water Bottle
- Extra masks – in case they get broken or dirty

We will provide all other materials needed during the day for academic learning.

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

130 East Avenue, Lewiston, Maine 04240

P 207.795.4050 F 207.795.4053

ywcamaine.org

Central Maine

Children will also participate in different activity blocks during the time with us, such as art, STEM, social and emotional learning, and physical activities arranged by our childcare staff.

FOOD AND MEALS

The YWCA will provide breakfast, lunch, and snack for all children in our care. For this reason, we request that children of all ages not to bring outside food into the facility, and only bring water to drink.

AQUATICS

Children are able to participate in swim time while at the YWCA. Please continue to bring in:

- Bathing suit
- Towel

To keep children, staff, and your families safe, we ask that you commit to the following measures until further notice. Safe and uninterrupted childcare will only be possible if we all do our part to keep our building and each other as healthy as possible.

PLEASE RETAIN FOR YOUR REFERENCE:

- Bring home any items brought to the YWCA by your child weekly – more frequently if possible.
- If your child gets sick while they are in our care, please bring home your child's personal items when picking them up.
- Please keep your children home, if they are sick or showing any signs of illness, such as vomiting, diarrhea, bad pain and nonstop coughing.
- **Please notify us if you are keeping your child home because they or another household member is sick, so we can take the necessary precautions.**
- Your child's temperature will be taken at drop off. If they have a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or greater and/or if they are showing any signs of illness, we may request that they stay at home. Not only are fevers a sign of some sort of infection, it also usually means they are shedding germs – while giving children medicine might bring the fever down, it will not stop them from being contagious.
- Parents and/or guardians will drop off and pick up their children in the lobby. Please wait for a staff member to assist you by bringing your children to and from their classrooms.
- Children will also wash their hands at drop off and multiple times throughout the day.
- Per State recommendations and state licensing standards, there will be no more than 10 children under the age of 4 per group; and we will maintain school aged

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

130 East Avenue, Lewiston, Maine 04240

P 207.795.4050 F 207.795.4053

ywcamaine.org

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Central Maine

children in groups with 1 adult per 13 children. We will follow CDC guidelines regarding group gathering sizes. Whenever possible, groups of children will not be mixed and the same groups will be together during the day.

- As needed, we may take your child's temperature during the day and monitor for signs of illness. If a fever or illness is suspected, we will call parents immediately for pick-up. We will have a safe space for a child to go if they become symptomatic, until the child's family or guardian can pick the child up.
- Staff who exhibit symptoms will be sent home immediately.
- If your family has plans to travel out of state during this time, please contact us so we can create a Return to Care Plan with your family.
- Staff members and adults entering the building **MUST** wear a mask or other face covering. Staff members and children over than 5 are **REQUIRED** to wear face coverings within the facility and outdoors if social distancing cannot be maintained. Children ages 2-4 are encouraged to wear face coverings. We will provide a time for all children to take a mask break during the day when social distancing can be enforced. Please provide your child with their own personal mask so they can be taken home to be washed regularly.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate uncharted waters together with our patrons, the municipality, and other nonprofits in the community. This situation continues to evolve rapidly and is subject to change based on new information from the Maine CDC and childcare licensing agency. Thank you all for your time and understanding during this difficult time. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

For updated information and announcements, please continue to follow us on social media and visit www.ywcamaine.org. In the meantime, please stay healthy!

Respectfully,

Crystal Parritt
Director of Childcare Services

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

130 East Avenue, Lewiston, Maine 04240

P 207.795.4050 F 207.795.4053

ywcamaine.org