

## **Tanaina Child Development Center COVID-19 Mitigation Plan**

### **Tanaina Operations**

Tanaina Child Development Center provides childcare services to Alaska Regional Hospital families and the Anchorage community. Tanaina Admin will communicate to families the importance of keeping children home when they are sick. Tanaina will visually screen every child and staff member daily upon arrival and continue throughout the day.

[Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open | CDC](#)

### **Enrollment**

Enrollment in Tanaina programs is assessed on monthly basis according to age and how many days a week a child is signed up for. Fees are owed regardless of attendance or closures.

[TCDC+Family+Handbook+May+2020.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#) pg. 22

### **Communication**

In accordance with all relevant laws, regulations, and Tanaina policies (e.g., Americans with Disabilities Act) when a student or staff member reports having tested positive for COVID-19 Tanaina Administrators will notify local health officials, staff, and families. If this occurs an administrator can share general information with the parent or guardian about the exposure without providing the specific identity of the person who had COVID-19. The parent or guardian will be alerted if their child is believed to have been in close contact with the individual who tested positive.

### **Policy Limitations**

This policy and the guidelines and estimated closure lengths are subject to change based on information gathered for each unique situation that arises. We will continue to use CDC guidelines, local public health officials, and state childcare licensing guidelines to aid with operations and closure decisions.

### **Confirmed Close Contact:**

A teacher or child with a known close exposure (i.e. household member) to COVID-19 should quarantine based on CDC guidelines. Options for returning to Tanaina include:

- Quarantining for 5 days if unvaccinated after last exposure and exhibiting no symptoms of COVID-19 before returning to Tanaina OR
- Obtain a negative PCR (polymerase chain reaction) COVID-19 test at least 5 days after the last known exposure, in which the teacher or child may return after 5 days of quarantine if not exhibiting symptoms

\*per CDC guidelines, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria may return to Tanaina:

- Has had COVID-19 within the last 3 months AND
- Has recovered AND
- Remains without COVID-19 symptoms

[COVID-19: When to Quarantine | CDC](#)

### **Confirmed Positive for Either Teacher or Child:**

Any teacher or child who test positive for COVID-19 is required to isolate and not return to Tanaina until:

- It has been 5 days since symptoms first appeared (or 5 days since positive COVID-19 PCR test if asymptomatic) AND
- Fever free for 24hrs without the use of fever-reducing medication AND
- Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (if applicable)

### **Exhibiting Symptoms of COVID-19**

Any teacher or child exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will need to complete one of the following before returning to Tanaina:

- Receive a negative COVID-19 PCR test at least 5 days after symptom onset and is no longer exhibiting symptoms
- Quarantine for 5 days
- Present a signed note from a doctor's office at least 5 days after symptom onset stating they do not have COVID-19 and are clear to return to Tanaina

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficult breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, or vomiting, and diarrhea. This list does not include all possible symptoms.

[Symptoms of Coronavirus | CDC](#)

When Tanaina receives notification of a positive COVID-19 case, Tanaina notification procedures will begin. First, Tanaina will communicate the incident with health officials and childcare licensing. Next, Tanaina will notify families who came in contact with a positive individual and notify those who need to quarantine.

Due to the proximity of children and teachers when a child or teacher test positive families should plan that the entire classroom will likely close for 5 calendar days. However, depending on information gathered Tanaina will make classroom and center wide closure decisions on a case-by-case basis with the support and help of local public authorities.

[Testing for COVID-19 | CDC](#)

[Test for Current Infection \(Viral Test\) | CDC](#)

### **Specific Scenarios FAQs**

1. FAQ- My child's classroom was closed due to a positive COVID-19 case and the positive case was NOT my child, does my child's sibling who is a different class need to quarantine too?
  - No- This scenario will be considered a secondhand exposure and does not require the sibling to quarantine.
2. FAQ- My child tested positive for COVID-19 but his or her sibling did not. Do both classrooms need to close for quarantine?
  - Yes- The classroom with the positive case will close for a mandatory 5-day quarantine. However, depending on information gathered it will be determined if sibling's classroom or center closure is necessary or further action is required.

### **Follow up Steps for Symptomatic Teacher or Child**

- If a teacher or child becomes symptomatic with symptoms resembling COVID-19 during the school, the entire classroom will be sent home immediately.
- Children and teachers will remain in their classroom in isolation to await parent pick up.
- Parents will be notified to pick up children.
- The child or teacher exhibiting symptoms will maintain the greatest distance possible from others and if possible, will isolate in a second room.

[What to do if a Student Becomes Sick at School or Reports a New COVID-19 Diagnosis Flowchart | CDC](#)

### **Travel**

Any attendees who come from out-of-state or have recently traveled out-of-state, are required to have abided by Alaska State travel requirements.

[Traveler Information - COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Information \(alaska.gov\)](#)

## **Personal Protective Equipment and Cleaning**

Per CDC guidelines, Anchorage, AK is at the medium level for COVID-19. Medium Level indicates “People may choose to mask at any time”. Following CDC guidance, face coverings are optional for all adults and children over the age of 2 while in the Tanaina suite. However, masking for children 2 years and up and adults and in common areas in the Alaska Regional Medical buildings will remain in effect in accordance with ARH policy. Tanaina continues to monitor CDC, State, and Municipality recommendations.

## **[Use and Care of Masks/ CDC](#)**

Tanaina will maintain a hard copy of the COVID-19 Mitigation Plan and any other written safety, sanitization, and physical distancing protocols (specific to COVID-19) on the business premises. Tanaina will provide training for staff regarding these requirements and provide each staff member a copy of the COVID-19 Mitigation Plan. Families will also be provided Tanaina’s mitigation plan.

Tanaina staff will supervise all children when handwashing or using hand sanitizer and prompt when needed. The use of hand sanitizer is encouraged at screening desk and families and children are required immediately to wash hands upon entry of classrooms.

## **Meals**

Tanaina will continue to provide breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Meals will be prepared and brought over from Alaska Regional kitchen and then pre plated by teachers. Children will be required to bring their own reusable water bottle which will be taken home for deep cleaning at the end of each week.

**[Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open | CDC](#)**

## **Tanaina Screening and Sign-In/Out Processes:**

### **Staff Screening and Sign-In/Out:**

- a. By clocking on Tanaina staff, attest to answer “no” to all COVID-19 screening questions including traveling within the past 14 days
- b. If any employee cannot attest to an answer of “no” to COVID-19 screening questions, or employee reads a temperature of 100.4F or higher, employee cannot enter Tanaina and must notify their supervisor immediately and follow the guidelines under the Tanaina COVID-19 Mitigation Plan. No employee displaying symptoms of COVID-19 will provide services to children and families. Symptomatic or ill employees may not report to work.
- c. Should employees feel uncomfortable working due to underlying health conditions, or other risk factors, they are encouraged to notify their supervisor as soon as possible. Tanaina will work with high risk employees to make reasonable accommodations.
- d. Staff will clock out at the end of each shift and immediately leave the Tanaina suite

- e. All Sign-in logs will be maintained on site for record retention and tracing.

### **Children and Family Screening and Sign-in/Out:**

- a. Upon arrival families are asked to stay together and maintain a distance of at least 6ft if a back-up begins families need to wait outside until there is more space.
- b. Adults and children over the age 2 are required to wear masks upon entering an Alaska Regional medical building. Masks are optional once inside the Tanaina suite for all children and adults.
- c. By dropping your child off, you are attesting to an answer of “no” to all COVID-19 screening questions including traveling within the last 14 days.
- d. If any family cannot attest to an answer of “no” to COVID-19 screening questions, or child/children reads a temperature of 100.4F or higher, the Tanaina family cannot enter Tanaina and must notify Tanaina Admin and follow the guidelines under the Tanaina COVID-19 Mitigation Plan. If a child or any of their household members are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 they will not be able to receive childcare services. Symptomatic or ill children must stay at home.
- e. At pick-up families are to maintain no less than 6ft and avoid congregating. Tanaina staff will sign out children and families are to exit quickly.
- f. All sign-in logs will be maintained on site for record retention and tracing.

### **Tanaina Child Development Center Social Distancing:**

- a. Social distancing will be encouraged whenever possible, children will be seated apart at tables and for group activities as space allows.
- b. As weather and activities allow, Tanaina will utilize outdoor spaces whenever possible.
- c. Tanaina staff will ensure that each child washes their hands upon arrival, before and after using the restroom, before and after eating, between all activities, when transitioning to another area of the classroom, coming in from outside and when teachers observe a behavior such as sneezing, fingers in mouths etc. Everyday health guidelines will be reviewed in an age appropriate way to all children to encourage best practices.
- d. Tanaina children are required to provide their own set of clothing, outdoor gear and napping items which will be stored in their individual cubby areas.
- e. Sharing of touch items will be minimized to the furthest extent possible with sanitizing of the item(s) taking place between each child’s use, as well as the children being required to wash their hands before and after using shared touch items.
- f. Activities, which require projection of voice or physical exertion, will take place outdoors, with 6 feet between each child encouraged.

- g. No classrooms at Tanaina are permitted to have a group sizes of over 15 children. Tanaina classrooms will remain separated as much as possible, with the same teachers and children in each to create static groups.
- h. Teachers who interact with multiple groups of children will take increased measures to wash hands and use extra caution.

[Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open | CDC](#)

**Tanaina Hygiene Protocols:**

- a. Tanaina staff will supervise all children when handwashing or using hand sanitizer and prompt when needed.
- b. Tanaina staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on an ongoing basis. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, sinks, faucets, and toys. A cleaning schedule/log will be used to document these cleaning rounds and will be checked by Tanaina admin daily.
- c. At the end of each day Tanaina staff will sanitize all surfaces and toys with a sanitizing bleach solution
- d. Tanaina is designed with an open concept allowing for clean air to ventilate the space. In addition to being open Tanaina admin will prop exterior doors open to allow clean air into the center and monitor the exits while children are present
- e. Tanaina admin will maintain an adequate supply of disinfectant, hand sanitizer, and paper towels to have available for staff, children, and families.
- f. Tanaina staff will wash hands frequently using hot water with soap. Handwashing will occur before and after food preparation, assisting a child with eating, pottyng, diaper changes, transitions, any time before and after making physical contact with a child or another person. If soap and water are not readily available, Tanaina will supply hand sanitizer with at least 70 percent alcohol.
- g. Tanaina staff, children and families will be required frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer if handwashing is not available. This includes upon entry into the facility, before and after an activity, and at a minimum, on an hourly basis.

**Additional Resources:**

[State of Alaska COVID-19 Mandates.](#)

[Municipality of Anchorage COVID-19 Updates](#)

[When to Keep Your Child Home From Child Care](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

[K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs; FAQs for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents \(cdc.gov\)](#)

[final phase 3 - attachment e - child care 06.17.20.pdf \(muni.org\)](#)

[HMG AK Covid 19 Resource list-final \(squarespace.com\)](#)

Updated: March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022