Director Office: 712-338-2731
Email: safarichildcare@live.com

UPDATE November 18, 2020

Dear Families,

With recent updates from Gov. Reynolds, DHS has rolled some new guidelines. Staff for Licensed Child Care Centers, MUST now wear a mask, if medically appropriate. Effective tomorrow, Nov. 19, 2020, Safari staff will be required to have a mask while in the building.

DHS is also encouraging that children the age of 2+ years of age, wear a mask as well, if medically appropriate. We understand how difficult this might be, so if your child is not comfortable, we will not have them wear it, but will work with them to try and get comfortable. Again, it is NOT mandated for the children but is mandated for staff.

We are also asking that families wear a mask. This is NOT a mandate, but we are encouraging families to do so.

We will continue our current screening practices as normal and families are still welcome to drop off and pick up their children at their classroom door. Please DO NOT enter into your child's classroom, the staff will come to the door. You are ONLY welcome into the room if the children and staff are outside.

DHS Guideline Resource:

- Child Care Guidance- https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/DHS_ChildCareGuidance.pdf?032120201912
- When to Quarantine- https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/61/covid19/resources/WhenToQuarantine.pdf
- Travel During COVID- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html

Thank you so much for your understanding and support on these updates!! We are in this together and will get through this!!!!

UPDATE October 2, 2020

Dear Families,

We are happy to share that DHS has lifted the mandate that families are to be screened at the door.

Effective Monday, October 5th, Safari will be allowing families to enter through the building and take their child or children to their classroom door. However, you are NOT to enter the room. A teacher will be in the room to greet you at the classroom door. Your child will continue to get screened as normal.

If your child's classroom is empty, and the children are outside, you MAY enter through the room to go outside to get your child. If there are children in the room, please again, DO NOT enter the room.

Guidelines we will continue enforcing:

- If your child has a temp, the same guidelines apply. Any temp of **100.4 or above**, your child will be sent home. *Please see below, exceptions for teething infants and toddlers.*
- Your child MUST be fever free for 72 hours without any aid of medication, (per DHS and CDC) before returning to Safari.
- If your child is exhibiting ANY signs of illness, PLEASE keep your child home for a minimum of 10 days from the first sign of symptoms (per CDC and DHS).
    - ***EXCEPTION for infants and teething toddlers:***
        - We understand that teething babies and toddlers have a tendency to show very similar signs mimicking an illness. With this in mind, Safari staff will keep a close eye on your child and if they begin to decline in behavior, you will be called to pick up your child. ***See bullet guidelines below***
            - A child should be temporarily excluded from care when the child's illness causes one or more of the following:
                - Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities.

        - A need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
        - An acute change in behavior: lethargy, lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, or a quickly spreading rash.
        - Fever and/or other signs and symptoms such as (e.g., sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea)
    - Safari will NOT administer medication to your teething child. This will give us a better observation of how they will act during their day. If they decline, they will be sent home.
- Safari will NOT be requiring a doctor's note at this time, in order to return to Safari.
    - We just ask that you please follow the guidelines above. If your child exhibits signs of illness, please keep them home for the requested amount of time.
    - Having your child seen by their health care provider is still very helpful at this time. Especially if your child has a contagious illness, we need to ensure we have an exposure posted if needed.
- If your child has a member within the household that is being tested for COVID, we HIGHLY encourage you to keep your child home, until your results come back, this is to ensure reducing any further exposure.

UPDATE July 20, 2020

Dear Families,

First I want to thank you all for being flexible with our decision to close for a few days to allow for a deep clean to the center, due to our most recent Positive COVID case.

Our plan still stands to re-open on Tuesday, July 21st, 2020 at 7:30am. Upon reopening, we will be adjusting some of our guidelines due to more information we have received from CDC and DHS.

UPDATES:

- If your child has a temp, the same guidelines apply. Any temp of **100.4 or above**, your child will be sent home. *Please see below, exceptions for teething infants and toddlers.*
- Your child MUST be fever free for 72 hours without any aid of medication, (per DHS and CDC) before returning to Safari.
- If your child is exhibiting ANY signs of illness, PLEASE keep your child home for a minimum of 10 days from the first sign of symptoms (per CDC and DHS).
    - ***EXCEPTION for infants and teething toddlers:***
        - We understand that teething babies and toddlers have a tendency to show very similar signs mimicking an illness. With this in mind, Safari staff will keep a close eye on your child and if they begin to decline in behavior, you will be called to pick up your child. ***See bullet guidelines below***
            - A child should be temporarily excluded from care when the child's illness causes one or more of the following:
                - Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities.
                - A need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
                - An acute change in behavior: lethargy, lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, or a quickly spreading rash.
                - Fever and/or other signs and symptoms such as (e.g., sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea)
        - Safari will NOT administer medication to your teething child. This will give us a better observation of how they will act during their day. If they decline, they will be sent home.
- Safari will NOT be requiring a doctor's note at this time, in order to return to Safari.
    - We just ask that you please follow the guidelines above. If your child exhibits signs of illness, please keep them home for the requested amount of time.
    - Having your child seen by their health care provider is still very helpful at this time. Especially if your child has a contagious illness, we need to ensure we have an exposure posted if needed.

UPDATE July 10, 2020

Dear Families,

We just want to take a moment to have you review our recent updates. Please take note of a few updated areas, you will see in pink highlight.

Safari is still mandating that ALL families drop off and pick up at the door. At that time, a staff member will be taking your child/children's temp.

- Safari doors WILL be locked from 9:30-3:00, if you need assistants, please call us and we will assist you. *712-338-2731*
- IF, we are outside, please come to the North side of the building to the playground, for drop off and pick up, and a staff member will assist you. **Please DO NOT walk through the building at this time.**
- **Please DO NOT walk into your child's classroom or to their door. Staff will assist you as quickly as possible.**
- If your child has a temp, the same guidelines apply, any temp of 100.4 or above, your child will be sent home and may not return for 14 days or until a doctor's note clears them to return indicating they are clear of any potential COVID virus or contagious illness.
- If there is ANY other indication throughout the day your child is ill, you will be contacted immediately and your child will need to go home. NO ACCEPTIONS!!!
- If your child shows any signs of illness at drop off, you will be asked to take your child home.
- PLEASE, if you child is showing ANY signs of possible illness, such as a runny nose or slight cough, please keep them home.
    - We understand children could be teething and or have allergies at this time, however, we need to ensure the safety and well-being of all kiddos and staff. These areas will not be dismissed and will be asked to be addressed by your physician, just to be safe.
- Other than adjusting how families are to drop off and pick up, the rest of our guidelines still apply, please see link for reference. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-BonRkAO-VwOIkKVPaP796IIDLX0_vk4edlveD_07vc/edit
- IF Safari happens to exhibit COVID exposure, the Director will be in immediate contact with DHS and CCR&R(Child Care Resources & Referral), to aid in determining our action plan moving forward.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation with our policies and guidelines we are to follow. We understand this may be a bit of an inconvenience, but we really are doing our best to ensure your child stays healthy and we can continue to operate.

Please stay Healthy!!!

Thank you,

Safari Team

June 12, 2020 UPDATE!!!

Dear Families,

As several of you are aware, COVID cases are drastically increasing in our area. With that increase, Safari will be adjusting our guidelines.

EFFECTIVE Monday June 15th, Safari will be mandating that ALL families drop off and pick up at the door. At that time, a staff member will be taking your child/children's temp.

- Safari doors WILL be locked from 9:30-3:00, if you need assistants, please call us and we will assist you. *712-338-2731*
- IF, we are outside, please come to the North side of the building to the playground, for drop off and pick up, and a staff member will assist you. **Please DO NOT walk through the building at this time.**
- If your child has a temp, the same guidelines apply, any temp of 100.4 or above, your child will be sent home and may not return for 14 days or until a doctors not clears them to return indicating they are clear of any potential COVID virus or contagious illness.
- If there is ANY other indication throughout the day your child is ill, you will be contacted immediately and your child will need to go home. NO ACCEPTIONS!!!
- If your child shows any signs of illness at drop off, you will be asked to take your child home.
- PLEASE, if you child is showing ANY signs of possible illness, including a runny nose or slight cough, please keep them home.
    - We understand children could be teething and or have allergies, however, we need to ensure the safety and well-being of all kiddos and staff. These areas will not be dismissed and will be asked to be addressed by your physician, just to be safe.

A few more Updates:

- Safari will NOT be accepting drop-ins at this time.
- Other than adjusting how families are to drop off and pick up, the rest of our guidelines still apply, please see link for reference. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-BonRkAO-VwOIkKVPaP796IlDLX0_vk4edlveD_07vc/edit

- IF Safari happens to exhibit COVID exposure, the Director will be in immediate contact with DHS and CCR&R(Child Care Resources & Referral), to aid in determining our action plan moving forward.

Please stay Healthy!!!

Thank you,
Safari Team

May 28, 2020 UPDATE!!!

Dear Families,

We are looking to adjust our guidelines, just a tad.
As more families are coming back, we will be looking to combine age groups a little more, as needed (still following state guidelines with ratios) and may have one staff in each room at times, as we will potentially be opening our 4th room.

With that said, **EFFECTIVE Monday, June 1st, for Drop Off and Pick Up**, families will be allowed to walk to their child's classroom door, **DO NOT ENTER**, and a staff member will meet you there for screening and take your child. This will ensure that we are not leaving a room unattended.

Same screening will continue. Any temp of 100.4 or above, your child will be sent home and may not return for 14 days or until a doctors not clears them to return indicating they are clear of any potential COVID virus. If there is any other indication throughout the day your child is ill, you will be contacted immediately and your child will need to go home. NO ACCEPTIONS!!!

We also ask that upon drop off and pick up, we remember to still keep a safe distance, as best we can, to assist in keeping a potential spread, to a minimum.

We want to thank you all again for your continued efforts in following our guidelines with us! You are all truly amazing.

THANK YOU,

SAFARI TEAM!!!

April 28, 2020
Dear Families,

We are so excited to announce, we WILL be opening May 11th. We appreciate all of your understanding as we have closed to ensure the health and well-being of all.

We are sending out our survey once again, to get feedback on your child care needs for your return on May 11th. Please fill that out ASAP so we can get plans in place and everyone ready to go!

Please let myself or Dani know if you have any questions! We are excited to see you guys.

Keep Scrolling….

Options for the week of May 11, 2020

Hourly Rate: Parents will need to give their specific times and drop off no later than “that” specific time, and pick up no later than “that” specific time. They will be charged the $5.00 fee per 15 minutes if picking up late plus the drop-in rate. Normal after hours fees apply still. See handbook.

Holding Fee: This option is still available to families who will not need care. It will be mandatory to hold your spot to ensure your child is able to re-enroll at Safari when you are ready if you are not utilizing our hourly rate of more than 1 day per week, or weekly full time tuition.

Full Time: Parents will need to give their specific drop off and pick up times. However, families will not be charged for picking up after their specified time. Please use common courtesy and let our staff know if you will be picking up at a different time. We want families to communicate with us on DAILY CONNECT ONLY.

Please, if you haven’t already, update your child information form:
Child Information Form Update -->>>>https://forms.gle/eCdgj6s8EtMENcvD9

Protocols

- Parents are to drop off kids at the door where staff can check each child's temperature before check in. This will be done with a thermometer scanner.
- Children and staff with a fever of 100.4 or above must go home.
- If a child or staff has a fever of 100.4 or above, they may not return for 10 days.
- Caregivers are NOT TO GIVE ANY FEVER REDUCER WITHIN 24 HOURS OF DROP OFF. If we notice this is evident (children do like to tell us EVERYTHING and tend to be messy when being administered purple or orange substances)… You will no longer be enrolled at Safari.
- Children will wash their hands upon arrival.
- Distancing will be encouraged.
- No more than ten humans per room. (Children might not be in their original classrooms)
- We will remove plush toys and prohibit toys brought from home. All blankets that children use at nap time need to be sent home at the end of the day. (Or.. just bring five blankets on MOnday and we will send home the one we used daily)
- We will also send daily updates on our openings.
- Hours will depend on the responses from our families via Google Forms Survey.
- Volunteers who already have a background check done, are encouraged to join our team. If you have worked in a center, school district, or anywhere in the community that required a background check, please contact Cassidy or Dani.

Back in March, many of the centers and in-home child care providers had decided to have families either pay for their spot to retain it, or pay a holding fee to retain it. Safari decided that for the best interest of our families, that we would waive those fees. Many families pay for their child care in advance (Safari Policy), Safari uses these funds for Monthly operating expenses. We will, however, credit these funds to parent accounts to use at a later time, but will not be doing refunds *at this time*.
Thank you for understanding.