



PRESCHOOL REOPENING INFORMATION

To our Child Care families,

We hope your family is well. We want to let you know that the YMCA will be reopening preschools in Vernon, East Hartford and Plainville tomorrow, March 25, to support the state, as the Governor has deemed child care as an essential service.

This program is open to you our current YMCA families. We are also partnering with health care and first responder agencies to their children as needed.

To reserve your spot, please call your branch telephone number:

- **Vernon Center:** 375 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Connecticut; 860-871-0008, Ages: Infant-PreK
- **YCC:** 70A Canterbury Street, East Hartford, Connecticut; 860-289-6612, Ages: Toddler-PreK
- **Wheeler Toddler/Preschool:** 149 Farmington Avenue, Plainville, Connecticut; 860-793-9631, Ages: Toddler-Pre=K

We need 24 hours' notice to prepare for your child's arrival.

The health and safety of your children and our staff is of paramount importance to us. In light of changes of recommendations from the CDC, we have updated our policy regarding children exhibiting signs of illness. The CDC has specifically outlined 3 symptoms of COVID-19: fever, shortness of breath, and coughing. Our policy is that staff have been instructed to send children home, or not permit them into our care, if they are exhibiting any of those symptoms.

In addition, the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood issued these recommendations to child care providers on who else should be kept out of child care facilities: "All staff and children should be screened for risk prior to entry into the child care environment and throughout the day.

Screening includes:

- temperature
- coughing
- sneezing
- shortness of breath
- travel history
- has the child or employee been recently on an airplane
- runny nose (Even a benign runny nose could spread a hidden illness if the child touches their face and then a surface. We understand that it is allergy season and that some of these symptoms might overlap, but our staff are not doctors able to diagnose, and we have to do our best to protect the largest number of children possible.)



- do they share a home with an individual 60 years of age or older and/or an individual with co-morbidities.

Our YMCA leaders and Child Care teachers have put a plan in place to best serve you and your child.

- Drop off will be curbside. Our teachers will meet you and your child(ren) outside main door locations. Parents are being asked to remain outside the building. Our staff will officially sign in your child and bring them safely into the program space.
- Pick up will be curbside. When you arrive for pick up, you will be asked to call the site and our staff will bring your children outside to have a safe handoff. If you are a parent known in our program, we will sign your child out. We will be asking all parents take a photo of their ID or Driver's License to be included in your registration packet. This will ensure our ability to confirm that you are approved to pick up.
- Special care is being taken by our Child Care professionals and our Branch Property team to ensure that best practices are being taken throughout the day. Staff will be frequently sanitizing all surfaces, including counters, tabletops, doorknobs, phones, light switches, and toys.
- Additionally, we are encouraging everyone to do their part in helping prevent the spread of germs and viruses. Hand washing remains the most effective method of preventing the spread of germs, including flu and coronavirus. We will be washing the children's hands when they enter the program and frequently throughout the day.

I hope you understand that we are doing this to protect all our children and staff, and to stay open as long as possible to serve the families of health care workers, first responders, and others who are not able to be home with their children. We appreciate your patience and look forward to supporting you and your family. This message, and other updates, are always available at ghymca.org.

Thank you,

The YMCA of Greater Hartford Child Care Team