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Dear Parent/Caregiver,

The health and safety of the children in our community is our number one priority. We have all been experiencing a new way of life with the COVID 19 or Coronavirus. We are stuck in our homes, wearing masks outside, physically distancing ourselves from loved ones and friends, and some of us have not been able to work or go to school.

Now, that some parts of our lives are plodding their way back to a new “normal” we want you to be prepared for some of the changes that you and your child will experience when you return. We are implementing universal precautions, as symptoms may not be the same for every person. To make sure this illness cannot continue to spread, we intend to take all reasonable safeguards, such as:

Parent Drop-Off There will be a hand washing/sanitizing station outside of the direct childcare area to reduce the amount of outside traffic inside of the center. Teachers will ask Parents and children to wait outside, and a staff member will escort the child to their classroom. Pickup will be a similar process, and teachers will bring children out to their parents. We ask that you have the same person drop off and pick up your child each day.

Daily Health Check Upon drop-off, we will ask if you or anyone in your household has been ill with our Covid-19 questionnaire. We will also take your child’s temperature before entering their class. If the child’s temperature is above 100 .2 degrees, they will not be allowed to attend school. Children should be fever free without medication for 24 hours prior to returning to the childcare program.

Masks All staff and children over the age of 2 will be required to wear a mask. We will have replacement mask at the centers in case something happens to your child’s mask while in school

Physical Distancing Teachers will have children in small groups during class time activities. Children will complete class activities separately. Classes have no more than 10-12 children. Teachers arranged classroom furniture to provide more space for children to play. Windows may be open to provide more air circulation. The program has separated napping equipment (cribs, cots or mats) to be 6 feet apart with children facing head to toe at napttime. Mealtimes will no longer be done in family-style, but staff will serve the children their meals. Children may be spaced six feet apart during mealtimes.



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Sanitizing and disinfecting We have intensified our efforts to keep our facility disinfected. Staff will increase their frequency of cleaning surfaces and classroom materials. Staff will regularly disinfect surfaces such as doorknobs, sink handles, railings, and any other high touch areas.

Hand Washing Children and staff will wash hands more frequently throughout the day to reduce the transmission of germs. Hand washing is still the #1 way of combating illness. Teachers will reinforce proper handwashing and closely monitor that children are taking time to wash their hands.

We appreciate your help We are committed to protecting the health of our children, staff, and families by taking the everyday preventative measures listed above; however, it is also important for families to monitor their own health for any symptoms. We ask that you assist us in our efforts to prevent the spread of illness by continuing to practice proper hand washing at home. It is also very important to follow our program's exclusion policies. If you have questions about those exclusion policies, please let us know. VOALA may alter or update these policies to reflect additional Covid-19 safety measures. We ask that you notify us immediately should your child, or someone in the household, become ill.

We will continue to follow these guidelines diligently to stop the spread of Covid-19. The Health and Safety Team will continue to monitor the CDC website for any additional guidelines and precautions. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us. We thank you for your partnership during this time and will continue to update you as we receive new information.

Warm Regards,

Felix Cruz
Director of Children's Services
Volunteers of America, Los Angeles