

November 2020



To Our Hand in Hand Families,

**Re: Updated Health Assessment Process**

We have been working diligently since school re-opened in September to create a Hand in Hand daily health assessment check-in process which aligns with what the school district has in place.

As you are aware the school district informed everyone in mid-October that they are revising their Health Assessment process and will be eliminating the daily health checks and replacing it with a parent waiver form. Parents/guardians will now be required to do a daily self-assessment of their child, checking for key symptoms of illness before sending them to school and/or Hand in Hand for the day. These symptoms include fever (temperature  $>37.5$  degrees), chills, cough or worsening of cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, diarrhea, and nausea/vomiting. If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms you are being asked that they stay home for a minimum of 24 hours from when the symptoms started. After that time period, if the symptom(s) improve, they may return to school/Hand in Hand if they feel well enough. If the symptom(s) persist or worsen, you are advised to seek out more detailed health assessment by calling 8-1-1.

Our Hand in Hand staff will continue to monitor the children daily, on arrival in the morning and afternoon with a verbal health check. If they feel that the child is not well enough to attend the centre, they will inform you at drop off, or call you to pick your child up. Children will not be permitted to remain at the centre if they have any of the symptoms listed above. We have added an additional column on our daily sign-in sheet to confirm that parents/guardians will be conducting daily self-assessments at home. In addition, families will be required to complete our monthly Health Assessment Waiver form which will be submitted on-line with your monthly calendar.

Managers will continue to have the authority over requiring an individual health assessment for students who have been absent from our centres due to illness. The safety and well-being of all children in our care, and our staff remain our highest priority. We depend on you doing your part to check for symptoms every day before bringing your child to school and keeping your child home if they or you display COVID-19 symptoms. As difficult as this is for everyone, it is an essential step to keeping our children, schools and our centres safe.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation  
Sincerely,

Cheryl Havens  
Executive Director  
Hand in Hand Child Care Society