



August 5, 2020

Dear Preschool Families,

As we wind down summer school, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for your patience and dedication! We also want to walk through some of the questions that have arisen from these last three weeks around illness and returning to school. We are working very hard to maintain a clean and safe environment for everyone, children, families, and our staff.

Things in our “new normal” are different and we are still making sure that we are following the most up to date guidelines and science to protect us all. We will share more as we learn more. Please be on the lookout for our full school reopening plan that will be posted on the Racker Website (www.racker.org) on Friday.

Here’s a FAQ guide that outlines some of the details of summer and what to anticipate in the fall:

Q: What is the screening that happens before a child comes to Preschool?

A: Prior to entry into our Preschool, we must know if the children *AND/OR their families/household members* have any of the following over the past 14 days:

1. Symptoms* of COVID-19, including a temperature of 100 degrees F or more
2. Exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, this includes “close” or “proximate” contact. In essence, being within 6’ of someone with COVID-19 or being in the same enclosed room or gathering with someone even if they were over 6’ away.
3. Exposure to someone who is under a quarantine order
4. Travel internationally or to restricted states

If the answer to any of those questions for a child, *or their family/household member*, is “Yes” - the child is **not permitted to come into the school building**.

It is important that there is clear communication with Racker if your child and/or a household member is exhibiting symptoms of COVID or has been exposed. This is for the health and safety of your family, other children and families in our program, and Racker staff members.

Q: If my child is sick, when can they return to school?

A: Based on the requirements from the State Education Department and NY Department of Health, the following will be required beginning in September *when a child exhibits the symptoms* of COVID-19*:

- Documentation from a healthcare provider stating that your child is able to return to school/work/routine public experiences; AND
- Documentation of negative COVID-19 testing for your child; AND
- Your child must be symptom-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever-reducing medication and have felt well for a minimum of 24 hours.

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

A: The symptoms change regularly as we are learning more; however, at this time here is the list from the CDC:

- Fever (100 F or more) or chills;
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- Congestion or runny nose;
- Fatigue;
- Muscle or body aches;
- Headache;
- New loss of taste or smell;
- Nausea or vomiting;
- and/or Diarrhea

Q: What happens with staff when they exhibit symptoms of COVID?

A: The staff at Racker are also required to follow SED and DOH guidelines for the health and safety of everyone in our Preschools. We will notify staff and families/guardians if a staff member has a positive COVID-19 test.

I cannot describe how wonderful it is to have children back at school. Thank you again, for your patience and entrusting your child's education and safety with us.

Be well,

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