

December 2020 Essential Care through Minneapolis Kids Family Newsletter

Hello Families,

As case numbers have risen in our community, it's important that we continue to provide you with clear and accurate information about Essential Care through Minneapolis Kids. This month's newsletter shares information about health checks, winter weather reminders, the supply drive, Winter Break, and more.

Health Checks

Health checks are an important part of our effort to keep everyone safe and healthy, and they are also required before at drop-off. Please continue to walk your children in and to wait until the health check has been completed before leaving. In addition, staff and youth should be adhering to a daily COVID-19 health screen **before** arriving. Please continue to ask how your child is feeling and to take a temperature at home as well.

Drop-In Care Rates and Late Fees

As a reminder, drop-in care is available to families if needed and if space allows. Families should reach out to their site's program coordinators to request drop-in care. The drop-in rate is \$16.30 per day for Extended AM Care and \$22.20 for Extended PM Care. Drop off time for Essential Care starts at 8:10 AM and pickup for Essential Care is until 3:15 PM. Families who drop off early or pick up late will be charged \$1 per minute per child.

Winter Weather & Minneapolis Kids

Winter has arrived in Minnesota and you may be wondering how that affects Minneapolis Kids. Weather permitting, staff will continue to take kids outside to play and to get some much needed fresh air. Therefore, please send your child to Essential Care with the necessary outdoor gear: a coat, snow pants, boots, gloves, and hat. We also recommend that they have an extra pair of socks available in case a dry pair is needed. Winter weather can make transportation difficult, so please be patient on those days. For our families who are using transportation please connect with dispatch if your child's bus is delayed at 612-668-2300. Finally, when there is inclement weather, decisions about closing school buildings are made by the district, and in those cases, families are notified via phone calls and emails from the district. If the school buildings are closed, the Essential Care program will also be closed that day.

Supply Drive

On November 23rd, we kicked off a supply drive for our Essential Care sites and it continues through December 4th. Families and community members can drop off donations to Justice Page at Door 5 this Friday, December 4th, but there is also a Target gift registry, which can be found at [tgt.gifts/mkessentialcare](https://www.target.com/gifts/mkessentialcare). Virtual gift cards can also be purchased and sent to our main office email: mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us. The donations received will be distributed between the sites and will help to bring some new energy to programming. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Winter Break

Winter break is from December 21st through January 1st, and due to low enrollment and health and safety concerns, Minneapolis Kids made the difficult decision not to provide care during this time. The last day of Essential Care before Winter Break is Friday, December 18th, and the Essential Care program will reopen on Monday, January 4th.

January and February Non-School Days

Friday, January 29th and Tuesday, February 16th are non-school days. Minneapolis Kids will offer non-school day care on these two days to families who are enrolled in Essential Care. Families can register to attend their Essential Care site for non-school day care, and the fee for care is \$42.20 per day. Sites will be open for care from 6:30 AM until 6 PM. Registration for these non-school days will open on Tuesday, January 5th.

MPS Phase Changes

MPS was hoping to move to Phase 3 of the 5 phases to safe learning in November. However, given the rising COVID-19 case numbers in our community, that will not be possible until further notice. MPS will continue to operate in Phase 2 with only Essential Care and a very limited number of staff in school buildings. For more information about the MPS plan for 5 phases to safe learning, please visit: https://mpls.k12.mn.us/5_phases_to_safe_learning.

Billing Cycle

Invoices are sent out on the first Friday of each month and payment is due the 16th of each month. Please note that if you are enrolled in auto-pay, the system will automatically withdraw money from your account on the 16th of every month. If you do not wish to participate in auto-pay, please log into your account and remove the auto-pay method.

