

Hello Families,

We hope that you all had a restful winter break and that the start of 2021 has gone well for you. While there continue to be uncertainties, we want to make sure that you continue to have clear and accurate information about Essential Care through Minneapolis Kids. This newsletter shares information about Non School Day registration, Essential Care site expectations, and more.

Non School Day Registration

Care will be provided on non school days and is only available to families who are currently enrolled in Essential Care. There are two upcoming non school days: Friday, January 29th and Tuesday, February 16th. Families will need to register for care ahead of time via Eleyo, and the charge is \$42.20 per day. Sites will be open from 6:30 AM until 6 PM, but please note that transportation and health services are not available on non school days. **Registration for the non school days in January and February will open on Tuesday, January 5th.** Two weeks' notice is required to add or remove non school day care.

Health Checks

Health checks are an important part of our effort to keep everyone safe and healthy, and they are also required before 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 check their temperature at home as well. Additionally, if your family traveled over winter break, please consider also getting tested before returning to site.

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.

Distance Learning

Minneapolis Kids staff provide basic technological support and classroom behavior management. Teaching is still directed by your child's teacher via distance learning. To make sure that your child is participating in their classes, please send their distance learning schedule to the program coordinators at your Essential Care site. If there are changes to your child's distance learning schedule, please make sure you inform the program coordinators of these changes..

Distance learning is challenging and it can be difficult for children to remain focused when on their devices. One way you can help your child(ren) is to block apps, games, and websites that do not contribute to their learning. A few potential apps to consider are [Kaspersky Safe Kids](#), [FamiSafe](#), and [Net Nanny](#). They offer free and paid family control options.

Transportation

If you are no longer in need of transportation or if a pickup or dropoff location has changed, please email us at mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us. Other questions about transportation should be sent via email to be addressed.

Billing Date/Schedule

Invoices will be 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.

MPS Phase Changes

MPS continues to operate in Phase 2, which is Distance Learning with limited academic support. No official decisions have been made as to whether MPS will be moving to a new phase after the semester break, which is February 1st. We will continue to provide Essential Care for Tier 1 families. 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.

