

# October 2020 Essential Care through Minneapolis Kids Family Newsletter

## Hello Families,

We hope that you are all finding your rhythm as we navigate these difficult times and that the start of the school year has gone well for your children. During this time 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 Essential Care site expectations, Non School Day registration and more.

## Distance and Extended 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 your child will be participating in extended learning activities (ex. GEMS/GISE, youth enrichment), please connect with your program coordinators about that schedule as well. 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.

## Drop Off Procedure

As a reminder please continue to walk your child(ren) all the way in and to complete the health screening at drop off. All staff and youth must complete a health screening when arriving at Essential Care sites and we appreciate your participation in this important safety measure.

## Early Drop Off/Late Pick Up Fees

As a reminder, drop off for Essential Care starts at 8:10 a.m. and pick up needs to be by 3:15 p.m. Fees will be assessed when child(ren) are dropped off early or picked up late. There is a fee of \$1 per minute, and after the third instance, a \$25 fee will be assessed in addition to the fee per minute. If you are in need of Extended AM or Extended PM Care, please email us at [mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us) to see if space is available.

## 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](mailto:mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us). Other questions about transportation should be sent via email to be addressed.

## Non School Days

Care will be provided on non school days and only available to families who are currently enrolled in Essential Care. Families will need to register for care ahead of time via Eleyo, and the charge will be \$42.20 per day. Please note that transportation and health services are not available on non school days. The first non school days are during MEA week on October 14th, 15th, and 16th.

## 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.

## Voting

The following Essential Care sites will be open for public polling from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3rd: Anthony, Field, Lake Harriet Upper, and Northeast. While we will be working with the City of Minneapolis to implement extra safety measures, we do encourage families to find alternative care if possible as we understand that it may make some families uncomfortable. If enrollment for the day is reduced enough it will create the fewest necessary accommodations, such as having to relocate the site and re-route transportation for the day. If your children will not attend Minneapolis Kids on November 3rd due to voting, please email [mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us) as soon as possible, and that day will be canceled for you.

