August 22, 2020

Dear ECEP Families,

UC Berkeley Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP) has been notified that one of our employees has been diagnosed with COVID–19. We know that, even though the coronavirus is believed to be very much present in the Bay Area and beyond, this is distressing news and you likely have a number of questions and concerns. We are here to help.

This letter confirms the conversation that has already occurred with a member of your family. Your family has been identified as a family who may have had close contact with the staff member who tested positive on Monday, August 17th or Tuesday, August 18th. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the virus is spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (less than 6 feet apart for 15 minutes or longer) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Please see below instructions regarding quarantine, testing, and returning to care.

**Home Quarantine for 14 days**

Until you meet the requirements for returning to care services (see below), your child is excluded from physically coming to Haste Street Child Development Center to help prevent potential spread of the virus. Your child needs to quarantine at home for 14 days after their last date of exposure (8/18/2020) to the ill employee. Out of an abundance of caution, we recommend other family or household members who care for the child quarantine as well, although it is not required. We also strongly recommend you consider minimizing contact with anyone who falls into a medically vulnerable group during this period.

**Testing**

While testing close contacts is helpful in earlier identifying infected individuals, it does not replace the requirement to quarantine for the full 14 days, the incubation period of the virus. In particular, testing too soon (less than 5 days after exposure) has no value. Please contact your health care provider to inquire about testing. If you do not have a health care provider or need to be connected to a testing site please visit [acphd.org/2019-ncov/testing.aspx](http://acphd.org/2019-ncov/testing.aspx). UC Berkeley faculty, staff, or students can be tested at UHS; see their testing page.
If you become symptomatic
If at any point anyone in your household develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, night sweats, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tiredness, muscle or body aches, headaches, confusion, or loss of sense of taste/smell), please contact your personal physician for advice and testing immediately. Please also notify UC Berkeley University Health Services via their CONFIDENTIAL line at (510) 643–8227 so that we can ensure the continued safety of our community. UHS keeps medical information confidential and will only disclose it on a need-to-know basis to protect public health, as required by law. Due to federal privacy laws, we are required to maintain the confidentiality of any medical information we receive, including the name of any affected child or their family.

Returning to Care Services
If during and after the 14-day quarantine your family and child continues to be symptom free, and does not test positive for COVID-19, your child may return to care. Please seek guidance from your healthcare provider if you are unsure.

Finally, please note this notification is only for individuals who may have had close contact. In most cases, we will only notify individuals if the contract tracers determined they were in close contact (more than 15 minutes of contact within 6-feet distance) with the individual who tested positive. Simply working or living in the same building with someone who recently tested positive does not put you at higher risk for getting the virus. In most cases, the risk would be no greater than the everyday risk posed by community spread.

If you have any immediate questions or concerns, you may contact Darrell Whitacre or Kristen Burmester. For more information on COVID-19, visit the City of Berkeley website at cityofberkeley.info/covid-19.

Sincerely,
Darrell Whitacre
Executive Director
Early Childhood Education Program
University of California, Berkeley