DAYCARE CENTER UPDATE

The Cleveland Department of Public Health wants to take this opportunity to thank you for all your continued hard work. Fortunately, the COVID-19 incidence rates are continuing to decline, where now the CDC considers Cuyahoga County's COVID-19 Community Level to be **Low** (CDC, 2022a). Despite **Low** level, daycares continue to have both vaccinated and unvaccinated people, as there is not an approved and available vaccine for children under the age of five. Thus, while it is important to provide the children with access to education and care, layered prevention measures are still strongly recommended under further updates transpire. Please help to ensure that daycares are the safest and healthiest environments for staff and children by respecting the following CDC guidelines.

CURRENT CDC GUIDELINES:

- Keep promoting vaccination, as it is the leading public health strategy to end the pandemic (CDC, 2022b).
- Maintain layered prevention measures, including social distancing, air filtration, limiting use of small spaces, encouragement of testing, and meticulous cleaning/disinfection methods.
- Quarantine and isolation (CDC, 2022c)
    - Follow these links for a recommended flow-chart and details on quarantine and isolation.
- Masking (CDC, 2022d)
    - When the level is Low or Medium, masks are not required.
    - Masks are still recommended for immunocompromised people and those who are at high-risk for severe disease.
    - At all levels, masks should be worn based on personal preference.
    - Masks should be worn on people with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure.
    - Explanation of the community levels

References:
CDC. (2022a). COVID-19 by county. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/yourhealth/covid-by-county.html
CDC. (2022b). COVID-19 guidance for operating early care and education child care programs. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance
CDC. (2022c). Quick guide. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/communication/print-resources/COVID-ChildCareProgram-Flowchart-H.pdf
CDC. (2022d). COVID-19 community levels. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html