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The Joanne & Ted Lindsay Foundation Autism Outreach Services (OUCARES) has been working hard to plan and prepare for in-person programs that allow for a safe and healthy environment for our participants with autism, their families, and our staff. We know that our programs are critically important to the socialization and overall wellness of the families we support. Thus, we are planning for a number of scenarios to effectively and safely provide OUCARES programming to you.

This letter includes helpful information you will need to know about expectations for each time you are physically at an OUCARES program. Please be advised that we are committed to a safe and healthy environment for our participants with autism, their families, our staff, and the community. We appreciate the support from OUCARES families through the COVID-19 pandemic.

**OUCARES will continue to follow the OU COVID-19 procedures for unvaccinated individuals:**

1. Unvaccinated individuals are required to wear a mask while indoors. Children up to 12 years of age remain unvaccinated.  Individuals are not required to wear a mask while eating or drinking.

2. Vaccinated staff will continue to wear a mask while indoors as a model for minor and/or unvaccinated participants.

3. Masks are not required on anyone while outdoors.

4. We continue to follow recommendations from the CDC related to reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Children's and K-12 settings.

5. Families are required to complete the daily health screening for their participant before arrival to programs.

6. The CDC no longer recommends taking temperatures prior to participating in childcare programs.

**Below are links to the Oakland University COVID-19 procedures, along with information provided by the CDC:**

<https://www.oakland.edu/return-to-campus>

[https://www.oakland.edu/return-to-campus/daily-screening-forms](https://www.oakland.edu/return-to-campus/daily-screening-forms%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**COVID-19: Considerations for Wearing Masks | CDC:**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fschools-childcare%2Fcloth-face-cover.html>

**Guidance for Operating Children Programs during COVID-19**:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#anchor_1612984661812>