

# WHAT SIU CARBONDALE HEAD START IS DOING TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD DURING COVID

The health and safety of Head Start children and families is of the highest importance. When we return to school on September 8, 2020, a number of measures will be used for the health and safety of all. We ask parent and staff cooperation in implementing these changes. If you have any questions, please call 453-6448. To see the opening plan in its entirety, visit [https://headstart.siu.edu/covid\\_19\\_information](https://headstart.siu.edu/covid_19_information).



All children will be required to wear masks while in the center or on the bus except for at nap time, meal time, and when playing outdoors. Head Start will provide the masks. See your Center Director to request an exception based on medical or safety reasons.



Family-style meals will not be served until further notice. All meals will be cooked by Head Start cooks, wrapped, and delivered to rooms on a sanitized cart. As always, no food from home.



Each classroom and bus will have hand sanitizer available for adult and child use. Hand sanitizer does not replace hand washing, and the program will follow its hand washing procedures in place. Children should not bring hand sanitizer from home.



A drive up pick up and drop off system will reduce the number of people you and your child are exposed to. Parents should look for cones and directions when entering the parking lot.



Parents and family members will have limited access to centers and no access to classrooms. If you do need to enter the center, you will be required to clear a health screening which includes a temperature and symptom check.

## 1:5

Classroom size will be reduced to a maximum of 10 children and two teachers to begin the year. The reduced ratio of one teacher to five children will reduce the number of possible exposures for children and staff.



All children will have a nap/rest time each day. Child cots will be placed six-feet apart in the same location each day. Children will use the same cot and bedding each day. Bedding will be washed weekly or as needed. Blankets from home are not permitted.



Classroom toys, playground equipment, bathroom fixtures, and high touch surface areas will be cleaned per the cleaning and sanitizing schedule, posted in each classroom and bathroom.



Children will receive a health screening before being received by Head Start. This will occur before a child enters the bus or building. The child's temperature must be below 100.4 and be free of fever, cough, head ache, sore throat, muscle aches, or shortness of breath. If your child has any of these symptoms, keep him or her home for three days.



Head Start will inform parents immediately if there is a suspected or confirmed case at the center via telephone and text. Parents are required to tell their child's Center Director if the child has been exposed to COVID-19 or has received a positive diagnosis.



All families are encouraged to send an extra pair of shoes for the child to wear while at the center. These shoes will be sent home on August 6<sup>th</sup>.



Each classroom will have an assigned bathroom and only children from that classroom can be in the bathroom at any one time. This is intended to prevent exposure to children and teachers from other classes.