**Academia de Mi Abuela (AMA)**  

**Community Health Agreement for Staff and Families**

**Updated December 15, 2020**

In Academia de  Mi Abuela’s Child Development Center, we have successfully adapted the learning environment during the pandemic, and we are on the path of constant improvement so that our children and staff remain healthy, and engaged regardless of the challenging time.  In order to continue to achieve this success, we ask for a transparent partnership of our AMA community by committing to abide by the Community Health Agreement terms set forth by CDC, and Community Care Licensing (CCL) child care standards for COVID-19 safety standards.

AMA has adopted a cohort setting standard, in which children and adults in supervised childcare environments during  the COVID-19 pandemic, must continue to gather in the smallest POD groups as allowable.  This practice decreases opportunities for exposure to or transmission of the virus; facilitates more efficient contact tracing; and allows for targeted testing, quarantine, and isolation of a single cohort instead of an entire school population.

While Child Care programs allow parents to return to work, they also provide children with the foundational early education and social skills that help build their future success and happiness in later life; this is something we are not willing to overlook because of the extra requirements this epidemic has put on our industry; both requirements are important and need to be met. These uncertain times bring the need for more risk management, in seeking the health and safety of their community.

We realize that due to the high-risk factors at play we cannot provide our service without a commitment of mutual support from our adult community- something we have never needed to consider before this time. We acknowledge that different people have different levels of comfort with risk. We also recognize that *no one person can make others abide by their personal interpretation of pandemic prevention, and safety standards, because depending on the person’s worldview, and core values, each person will interpret information differently.*

We understand that changes in behavior require buy-in and mutual agreement, and the implementation of self-discipline. This is part of the foundational learning we teach to young children: behavior is a choice. **For the first time, we are asking our adult community, parents and staff alike, to come together and agree to follow similar risk-minimizing behaviors to keep the school open and to protect the children, families, and staff while the virus continues to be active in our county.**

While your child attends Academia de Mi Abuela, they will be clustered in groups of anywhere from 4 to 12 students on any given day depending on CCL regulation. This means the vector of exposure for your family has increased not only to 12 children, but by the parents, siblings, and contacts of each family, and staff member caring for your child. To protect the school and to provide our service, adults need to be particularly careful when they are away from the facility.

**We ask that adults continue to use the following guidelines to minimize risk:**

* Wear masks and practice social distancing when outside your household bubble as well as frequent hand washing. In line with current recommendations, we ask that all children age 2 and older wear masks while at school.
* Carefully follow safety protocols when in contact with adults outside the household.
* When handling communal objects (gas pumps, groceries, doorknobs, light switches, toilet seats, etc) practice constant hand washing.
* Refrain from having play dates to avoid increasing the vector of contagion by adding another family unit to the already large vector coming to school. *(If children are in the same bubble at school, playdates should be relatively safe provided that they are outdoors and parents are masked and maintaining social distance.)*
* Given the current growth in COVID transmission and the fast approach of the

holiday-breaks, we ask that families avoid social gatherings with individuals outside of the family’s bubble. Alternatively, we ask that you quarantine for two weeks following possible exposure to individuals outside of your bubble.

* Prioritize your social contacts and minimize or eliminate other extracurricular activities.
* If exposed to COVID-19, family members will need to self-quarantine for two weeks and follow the standard health and safety protocols established by the CDC.
* If anyone in the household contracts COVID-19, they will stay home for ten days starting from their first illness symptom, and 24 hours fever-free without the use of medication.  We ask that in such cases you communicate your status to Academia de Mi Abuela as soon as possible,  so we can report your case to the health/CCL agencies as required.
* If you present any symptoms on the health checklist please go get tested. Return to school with a negative COVID test or a clearance from your family physician.
* In the preschool community, we do our best to protect community members' privacy but in this COVID-19 world, we are asking the staff and parents to please share candidly with us both your concerns, and exposures. In other words, COVID-19 positive cases or potential cases will be announced to the school community, keeping the family’s identity and personal medical information strictly confidential.

In spite of the risks, We believe that it is ultimately good for the children to return to school. Being in group care has a stabilizing and normalizing effect on children. When it is done well and with love, and empathy, playing with other children can help reduce the outside stressors for both children and families. The school will continue to thoughtfully plan and mitigate risk as much as we possibly can. We all need a world that is beautiful and interesting and fun to live in, and right now as we remain vigilant against this life-threatening virus, we work to find this balance for the good of our children and each other.

On a final note, in these unprecedented times, we want to preserve the things that make Academia de Mi Abuela such a special learning environment: our little ones, our teachers, and our community.  We are all working to create a healthy and safe learning environment for our children, faculty, and staff. We thank you, in advance, for following the CDC guidelines and county and state health orders to keep us all safe.

As we make the careful choice to serve the children and families, we ask the adults to take extra care of themselves, to ensure the health and safety of the overall school community. This is an act of love and kindness for the children and one another. We have confidence and trust the parents and staff to follow the health, and safety guidelines from Alameda County Public Health. Help us work together by aligning our risk exposure to keep the program safe and running for everyone.  After signing the document,

**I/We, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, sign this document as a commitment to the Academia de Mi Abuela Child Development Center and  Community.  I/We will do my/our best to be mindful and follow the CDC/CCL health and safety guidelines. I/We know this will support everyone’s safety in and beyond the AMA community, and help minimize potential exposure to COVID-19.**

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**Parent #1 Signature Date**

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**Parent #2 Signature  Date**

*Reference links:*

https://covid-19.acgov.org/covid19-assets/docs/press/press-release-2020.11.09.pdf

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/small-groups-child-youth.aspx>