



# Parent/Child Incorporated (PCI) of San Antonio & Bexar County

"Growing San Antonio's Tomorrow...Today!"

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Dr. Sharon M. Small, Chief Executive Officer/HS/EHS Director

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April 14, 2023

Dear PCI Parents/Guardians/Staff/Partners:

I first would like to **thank you** for adhering to the policies and procedures set in place due to COVID-19 to help mitigate the spread of the virus. During this time, we have asked all staff to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as was required by the Federal Government and the Office of Head Start as a condition of employment; and we have asked everyone (within the age requirement) to wear masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to keep our children, staff and families safe.

Recently, we received notice from the Office of Head Start, our funding source, that the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas **vacated** the Vaccine and Mask Requirements to mitigate the Spread of COVID-19 in Head Start programs. The decision took effect **April 7, 2023**.

Because of this ruling, there is no longer a Head Start requirement for vaccination and testing for Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program not only in San Antonio but throughout the United States.

PCI is required to have an evidence-based mitigation policy, developed in consultation with our Health Services Advisory Committee. This committee has met and will meet again on April 26, 2023 to update the Mitigation Policy addressing the new ruling.

Regarding masks, we will continue to make wearing masks **optional** for everyone with the understanding we must follow guidelines coming from the CDC or our local Metropolitan Health Department if COVID, FLU, or RSV numbers increase. PCI reserves the right to mandate the wearing of masks once again.

We ask that you continue to follow safety protocols though *triaging will no longer be required*: **wash hands, sanitize, cover mouth when coughing or sneezing and staying home when sick**. We want to continue to be vigilant, be respectful and take care of each other. Also note COVID-19 vaccine is still available if you wish to receive it.

**This change is effective immediately and I thank you for working with PCI regarding changes we have had to make in the past, present and in the future! It is all for the benefit of our children, staff, and families.**

For additional questions, please contact our Human Resources Department.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharon Small, CEO/HS-EHS Director

Services Provided By This Agency: Head Start, Early Head Start, EHS-CCP & Expansion, Center Nutrition Program, Day Care Homes Nutrition Program, Family Support Services, Disabilities Services and Professional Development

**"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"**