

Dear MVCDC Families,

Thank you for all you're doing to keep yourselves and your families safe. **We had just 1 new COVID-19 case this week:**

- The case involved a classroom staff member at **Town and Country**, resulting in 3 additional staff members and 23 children needing to quarantine. One classroom was closed.

Some [experts](#) have started recommending that "double-masking" is more effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19 than a single mask. Use a high-quality mask and make sure it covers your nose and fits tightly around your face.

Beginning this week, we made important changes to our health and safety protocols:

- Certain outside staff members may enter your child's classroom after communicating and planning with Education Supervisors. This change applies to MVCDC staff, speech therapists, student teachers and any approved outside support.
- The health team will begin doing dental and physical clinics.
- Supervisors and mental health consultants may move within 2 rooms per day and more if necessary, to support staff.
- Outside persons must wash their hands upon entering a classroom and do their best to maintain a distance of 6 feet from students.

Also, beginning this week:

- **We will be increasing the number of children in classrooms from 8 to 12 or greater based on need.**

Did you know that families can get 4 months of free Internet service by signing up for Dayton Metro Library's *Get Connected* initiative? Households must be in the Spectrum service area and not be a current Spectrum internet customer. [Click here](#) to learn more.

There is another great opportunity for families with 4 year old children who will enter Kindergarten in the fall. **The UPSTART program** is a FREE five (5) month Kindergarten Readiness program offered by the Waterford Institute. Click <https://www.waterford.org/upstart/ohio-k-ready/> or call -1-888-982-9898 for more information. Eligible families will receive a loaned computer and free internet services to support access to individualized activities.

As always, **our programs will be closed for President's Day — which this year is Monday, February 15.**

Gratefully,

