

Providence Preschool Policies During COVID-19

Providence Preschool is committed to providing the safest environment to our children, families, and staff by following these COVID-19 policies. This protocol was formulated using the CDC and DHEC recommendations, as well as discussions with other local preschool and daycare directors and a review by local medical professionals. **These procedures will stay in place for an undetermined amount of time and may be revised using the recommendations of CDC and DHEC.** Our facility is deep cleaned on a weekly basis and will be deep cleaned using CDC recommendations if a positive case is found in our facility. Our HVAC system has ionization units that have the highest rated HEPA filters that help to remove viruses and pollutants from the air.

- Upon arrival on campus, all children and staff will be screened for fever and symptoms. Any child or staff member with a fever of 100.4 degrees will not be allowed to attend school.
- If a child or staff member has a fever, they must be fever free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school and return with a doctor's note.
- Children and staff should should stay home from school if they have:
 - *Any one (1) of the following with or without fever (100.4 degrees or higher)
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing or
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - New or worsening cough or
 - *Other symptoms may include chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea/vomiting or diarrhea. Given the overlap of these symptoms with other more common illnesses and the lack of symptoms in many cases, it is not possible to identify and exclude all cases of COVID-19 through screening of symptoms.
- If a child or immediate family member of that child tests positive for COVID-19, the child will need to remain home in quarantine for 14 days. Notification to the school is mandatory. A negative test or a medical evaluation is required, or the individual must complete the isolation criteria to return.
- If a staff member or immediate family member of an employee tests positive for COVID-19, the staff member will need to remain home in quarantine for 14 days. Notification to the school is mandatory. A negative test or a medical evaluation is required, or the individual must complete the isolation criteria to return.

- If the staff member is *fully vaccinated* and he/she has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, and is not showing symptoms, he/she will not need to quarantine. However, vaccinated staff should be tested for COVID-19 3-5 days post exposure. Also, if a staff member has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and recovered, and comes into close contact with someone with COVID-19, and he/she does not have symptoms, he/she does not need to be quarantined.
- If a child or family member is sick and does not disclose symptoms, the child's spot may be forfeited at our school.
- If a child begins to show symptoms during school:
 - The child will immediately be taken safely and respectfully to a designated isolation area with a teacher to stay and comfort the child. Both will be required to wear face masks and stay 6 feet apart from each other.
 - Parents will be called **immediately** to pick up their child.
 - The child can return to preschool with a doctor's note as long as the child is symptom free.
 - If a child is tested for COVID-19, parents should inform the director that they met the criteria for testing. If a child is tested, parents of preschoolers in their class will be informed and notified of the results (the child testing positive will not be identified). If a child or immediate family member of that child tests positive for COVID-19, the child will need to remain home in quarantine for 14 days. Notification to the school is mandatory.
- **Isolation criteria:** Children and staff who test positive for COVID-19 and persons with symptoms of COVID-19 who do NOT get tested, should isolate until:
 - 10 days have passed since symptoms began AND
 - 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medication AND
 - They have an overall improvement of symptoms.
 - A negative test is not required to return.
- Classes will cohort. This means keeping the same children and staff together and limiting any interaction outside of the group. Children cohorted in a class together will be kept away from children in other classes, and staff will practice social distancing when around other staff members. Our goal is to contain the spread of germs from class to

class. This means only one class will use the playground at the time and classes won't be combined for Chapel.

- If a child or staff member tests positive and was contagious in the facility, then the entire class will quarantine for 14 days. (**Contagious period:** If a child or staff member tests positive, they could be contagious with the virus for up to 48 hours before their symptoms began. If they tested positive but had no symptoms, their contagious period begins 2 days prior to the date the specimen for their test was collected.)
 - If proper cohorting measures were followed, only children and staff in the classroom cohort with the case and any other identified close contacts (**Close contact:** Anyone who spent a combined total of fifteen (15) minutes or more within six (6) feet of the case over a 24-hour period during their contagious period) will be required to quarantine for 14 days. **We will ask siblings of children in quarantine to also stay home in quarantine.**
- **Quarantine:** Some children or staff may have been told they were a close contact to a case of COVID-19 outside of the facility and have to complete a quarantine period. This includes household contacts and other close contacts.
- During class quarantines, the classroom and all affected areas in the facility will be closed off and disinfected using EPA approved disinfectants.
- As recommended by the CDC, international travelers are asked to quarantine. We also ask that domestic travelers that travel to areas where crowds gather such as concerts, parades, theme parks (Disney World, Great Wolf Lodge), and big cities (NY, LA) may need to quarantine. Parents are asked to let the director know if they have traveled to areas such as those.
- Per CDC and SCDHEC recommendations, children are required to wear face masks inside of the preschool building. The three and four-year-old classes will be required to wear face masks inside of the building at all times, with the exception for snack and lunch time. The two-year-old class children will be encouraged to wear their face masks inside of the building.

Teachers and staff will wear face masks (or face shields during teachable moments

where the necessity of seeing the entire face is needed -- this option is only for fully vaccinated staff members) with the comfort and safety of the children in mind.

Outdoor school activities will not require a face mask.

All face mask requirements will be assessed on a monthly basis. If it is deemed safe to change any of the requirements, staff and families will be notified by the director.

- Children will be dropped off and picked up at the front door or side doors, instead of at classroom doors. Parents will not be allowed to enter the building at drop-off or pick-up. Siblings will be dropped off at their respective doors, not dropped off together.
- Just as last year, to prevent the spread of germs during snack time, we will no longer be providing snack. Parents are asked to pack their child's individual snack in a ziplock bag, labeled "Snack" and their child's name. Parents will continue sending in lunch in lunchboxes for their child.
- No visitors will be allowed in the building, including parents and non-school visitors. Parents will be asked to meet me or other church staff in the front door area. When necessary, parents will require a temperature check and a face mask. (available on site)
- Sanitizing stations have been placed in the center and will be made available frequently throughout the day. Frequent handwashing and other healthy habits such as covering coughs, washing hands, and disinfecting toys and frequently used surfaces will be practiced everyday and throughout the day.
- We are committed to keeping in touch with parents. Teachers will communicate with you through email, on private class pages, on social media, or on texting apps. The director will send emails to communicate school information. We will also plan outdoor events for families to participate in, weather and COVID-19 permitting.
- Parents can help support our guidelines by practicing healthy habits, informing us of any illness, and keeping sick children at home. Most importantly, we do not want children to fear people who are wearing face masks. Help us with that by wearing a face mask in front of your child. We also hope that the use of face shields during class instruction will help children see our happy faces and know that they are loved.
- In the event that DHEC recommends to us that we shut down, we will begin a virtual learning experience for our children. We are committed to making it as meaningful as

possible so that we can continue paying our teachers. Tuition will not be halted. We will monitor our situation and review our plans as the year goes on.

[SCDHEC Guidelines 8/25/21](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs 7/9/21](#)