

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, discussions with 8 other local preschool and daycare directors and a review by local doctors. 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 new ionization units that have the highest rated HEPA filters that help to remove viruses and pollutants from the air.

- We plan to open our doors on September 10, unless there is a stay-at-home order issued by our governor or by the City of Charleston.
- If we have a stay-at-home order that lasts until October 1, we will open then and may extend our school year through June.
- 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 medication for 72 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
 - Fever (100 degrees or higher) or
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing or
 - Loss of taste or smell or
 - *Any two (2) of the following:
 - Sore throat and/or
 - Muscle aches and/or
 - Chills and/or
 - New or worsening cough
- Other symptoms may include fatigue, headache, congestion or runny nose. 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 2 weeks. Notification to the school is mandatory. A negative test is required 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 2 weeks. Notification to the school is mandatory. A negative test is required to return.
- 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 to a designated isolation area with a teacher to stay and comfort the child. Both will be required to wear 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. 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 2 weeks. Notification to the school is mandatory.
- 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
 - 3 days have passed since last fever without taking medicine to reduce the fever 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 fifteen (15) minutes or more within six (6) feet of the case during their contagious period) will be required to quarantine for 14 days.
- During class quarantines, the classroom and all affected areas in the facility will be closed off and disinfected using EPA approved disinfectants.
- 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.
- School will end at 12:15 instead of at 12:30 to allow for more time for sanitization
- Families will be asked to pay a \$25 fee for sanitizing.
- 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, just as last year.
- 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, gloves and 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..
- Children are not required to wear masks, but it is optional for children over the age of 2. We ask that 3's and 4's bring a mask to have for necessary activities. Teachers and staff will wear masks or face shields with the comfort and safety of the children in mind. Outdoor school activities may not require a mask.

- We are committed to keeping in touch with parents. We will use the Bloomz texting service and your child's teachers will use a private social media platform (Facebook or Instagram). The director will also send emails to communicate school information.
- 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 masks. Help us with that by wearing a 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.

[DHEC Guidelines 8/3/20](#)