

# Guidelines for School during COVID-19

Please note that all teachers are coming to work willingly. Everyone has communicated that they feel safe and comfortable coming to work at Little Farmers.

## MORNING ARRIVAL

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**EVERYONE NEEDS TO HAVE A KIDCHECK ACCOUNT CREATED.**

Miss Natalie, our head teacher, will be greeting families upon arrival and evaluating the children. We will have a small tent/table setup right inside of the back-entry gate. No one is permitted to use the front entry way during the COVID crisis.

Only one family may come to the check-in table at a time. Those waiting to be checked in will space themselves 6ft apart along our fence (we'll spray paint markers on the ground as we're able). **Parents/Pick Up People bringing the child to the check-in area are required to have a face mask.** Upon checking in, you'll share your phone number with us so we can check your child in. Then, we will walk your child to the building. Parents are not be allowed in the building during the COVID crisis.

\* You should consider taking your child's temperature prior to coming. We will also be taking temperatures prior to the start of our day and again at lunch time.

## SANITIZING PROCEDURES

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Staff must enter the building with their face mask on and wash their hands upon arrival for 20 seconds with warm water and soap. Once all staff is in the building, the health assessor will sanitize the door knobs. Each child will need to wash their hands for 20 seconds upon arrival. The teacher will set a timer at the start of each child's handwashing and supervise that hands are being washed well.

After craft time, scissors, paintbrushes or capped markers will be put in the sink with bleach to be sanitized. They'll be wiped down and left there to air dry. This goes for any materials used during free play sessions as well. If they cannot be soaked, they will be sprayed.

If books are being used, the teacher will put a handful of them out for the children. When the children are finished with them, the teacher will spray the bleach solution onto a paper towel and wipe down hard covered books and put them back on the shelf.

Tables and chairs will be sanitized with the bleach solution before any "event of transition" (going outside, going to farm, moving to a new activity, before/after lunch or snack, end of day).

Teachers will spray each door knob before and after any transition and after a child has used the bathroom.

### Before the start of our day

Tables, chairs, handwash stations, bathrooms, door knobs and sinks will be sprayed with a bleach solution and sit for 2 minutes before being wiped down. This will kill any virus aerosols that have settled from the previous day.

### Mid-Day and End of day Sanitizing

- Sanitize tables and chairs (also before/after any transition)
- Sanitize toilets and sinks
- Spray toys and plastic bins with bleach solution
- Sanitize and wipe down all surfaces: bookcases, refrigerator handles, microwaves, Keurig's, kitchen sinks
- Sanitize all classroom interior/exterior door knobs
- Spray carpeted areas with bleach solution
- Wipe down TV remote controls with bleach solution
- Wipe down iPADS (check-in station and teacher iPADS) with bleach solution
- Wipe down laminated pick up list
- Wipe down walkie talkies with bleach solution

## **HANDWASHING PROCEDURES**

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Teachers will wash their hands:

- Upon arrival
- Before touching a child
- Before and after eating
- After sneezing, coughing or nose blowing
- After using the rest room
- Before handling food
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated
- After using any shared equipment

Children will wash their hands:

- Upon arrival
- Before/after crafts/activities
- Before/after snacks or meals
- After sneezing, coughing or nose blowing
- After using the bathroom
- After free play

### **IF A CHILD EXHIBITS ANY SICK SYMPTOMS WHILE IN OUR CARE**

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We will isolate the child to a "sick spot" immediately – likely a spot outside (weather permitting) with a staff member until pick up person arrives. If the weather doesn't allow for the child to be outside, we will designate the tile area - an area in the front room that is 10+ feet away from any other children as the sick child area. They will sit or lay on a cot if they

become ill. A parent or pick up person will need to be readily available to pick up their child within 60 minutes of our call.

After the child has left, everything in the “sick area” will be sanitized.

### **DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS**

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All teachers are mandated to wear a face covering throughout their entire shift, other than to eat their snacks/lunch or to drink water. They will have their snack/lunch in an area away from the children. We will eat lunch outside weather permitting. Teachers may take their face mask off for a few minutes at a time while outdoors and at least 10 feet away from children to allow for a “breather”.

We will allow a certain number of children in each area of the room and try to social distance as we’re able. For instance, 4 children per table, 3 on one carpet area and 3 on the other carpet area during free play times. Children can still choose what activities they would like to do, but we will break them up into smaller groups as the space allows.

During outside time, we will spray paint lines or use cones for separation of groups.

Overall, we will be extra cautious of the children’s actions at all times. If someone sneezes or coughs, we will sanitize any items that may have been touched. We plan to keep the kids outside as much as possible as the weather allows. We will take temperatures immediately following any sign of illness. We will also take everyone’s temperature prior to our morning circle time as well as mid-day before lunch time.

Parents must supply sprayable sunscreen only. Please do not provide rub in sunscreen unless you absolutely have to. We will apply sunscreen to every child.

Front Porch Drop Box – You can drop anything, anytime in the drop box (payments, paperwork). It will be checked daily.

Quiet Time: For children who will enjoy some quiet time (it is mandatory for the preschoolers), you may send them with their own blanket and small pillow (one that will fit in their backpack).

### **THE FARM**

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Children should come with their own overalls, boots and gardening type gloves.

### **PICK UP PROCEDURE**

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This will work the same way as drop off, only you must have your license with you. The teacher checking children out will be on a “three-way cell phone call” with the teachers in the addition and in the front room so we can retrieve your child if they aren’t already outside. Once your child has been called to come out, you will return to the other side of the gate while you wait for your child. Feel free to communicate with the teachers regarding your child’s day while you wait.

If you or someone you list as a pick up person is picking up early (or dropping off later in the morning), you need to text or call the business phone to notify us so we can have your child ready/be ready for your child. If you show up unannounced and outside of the drop off/pick up time, you may knock on the door, then take a step off of the porch. The teacher will then address you. The person dropping off/picking up must have a mask on. Please share this information with anyone picking/dropping off for you.

We expect drop off and pick up time to be time consuming the first few days as children start settling in. We understand some children may have separation anxiety, which is very normal! You must allow us to take your child (even if kicking and crying), and allow us to have their teacher settle them in. We will send pictures/videos of them to you once they're okay. We try to make drop off time quick so that everyone can get started with their day. Please trust that we will hold them and do everything we can to make your child feel comfortable if they're having a tough transition. Sometimes it takes weeks to get into routine!

If you are someone who needs to get to work quickly, I advise that you show up by 7:50AM and have your child at the gate in line ready to be checked in. We will do our best to move as quickly as possible. Drop off will be between 8:00-8:45 and pick up will be between 3:45-4:00. You don't want your child to miss their barn time (we start at 9:30), so please let us know if you'll be dropping off later than 9:00. An email or a text to the business phone will do.

### **CHILDREN WEARING MASKS**

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The state doesn't recommend that children wear masks in child care. You're more than welcome to send them in one if that makes you feel more comfortable.

Thank you for allowing us to care for and teach your child this school year. We hope it is a wonderful experience for them!