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ASP Health and Safety Guidelines FAQs

Health Screenings for Children and Staff

Will there be temperature and symptom screenings each day?

- Yes. Pre-screening will be conducted every day on all teachers, staff, and children.
- A no-contact thermometer will be used to screen for fever.
- Children and staff will be excluded from school if they register a 100.4-degree fever (or higher) or answer yes to any of the symptom screening questions listed in the “Health Screenings for Children and Staff” section on page 3 in the All Saints Preschool Reopening Plan Guidelines 2020-21. Children and staff are required to stay home, monitor for symptoms, and contact their health provider.
- Children and staff need to remain home until 72 hours after the fever is gone and symptoms are better. Children and staff will be allowed to return with a health provider’s clearance and, in some instances, show a negative test result to COVID-19.
- Parents/caregivers are required to sign the ASP COVID-19 Waiver prior to the start of school on August 31, 2020.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

Will there still be carpool drop-off and pick-up?

- Yes. Children in the 2-year-old program and above will continue to have morning and afternoon carpool. This limits foot traffic in our outdoor areas. Please note: parents/caregivers will not be allowed inside the school.
- For drop-off, please pull into the parking lot and follow guidance from staff. Your child’s teacher will be ready to take your child to the designated drop-off point for your child’s class. We ask parents (after pre-screening) to unbuckle children and get them out of the car.
- For pick-up, your child’s teacher will bring your child to your car. We ask the parent/caregiver to help their child into the car and buckle them.
- Bumblebee families should park on Grafton Street and walk their child to the designated drop-off point. For pick-up, please park on Grafton Street and meet your child at designated pick-up spot.



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What time is drop-off?

- We will stagger drop-off times to help carpool run more smoothly and efficiently and to reduce traffic. The schedule for morning drop-off is as follows:

Dragonflies – 8:45 a.m.; Caterpillars – 8:55 a.m.; Owls – 9:05 a.m.; Bees – 9:15 a.m.

- Families with siblings may drop off both children at the earlier timeframe. If you have a Bumblebee, please drop off older child first, then park the car and walk your Bumblebee student to the designated drop-off spot.

What is the policy on late drop-offs?

- Families may drop off late for scheduled doctor/dentist/other medical appointments. A teacher/staff member will meet you outside the school to accompany the child to his/her classroom as parents/caregivers are not allowed inside the school.
- For planning purposes, teachers and administration must be notified prior to the day of your late arrival.

What time is pick-up?

- We will stagger pick-up times to help carpool run more smoothly and efficiently. The schedule for afternoon pick-up is:

Bees – 12-12:10 p.m.; Dragonflies – 12:15 p.m.; Owls – 12:25 p.m.; Caterpillars – 12:35 p.m.

- Families with siblings may pick up both children at the earlier timeframe. If you have a Bumblebee, you will need to park your car on Grafton Street and pick up your Bumblebee student first from designated pick up spot, then get back in your car and go through the carpool line to pick up your older child.

Can I pick up my child early?

- Children can be picked up early. A teacher/staff member will bring the child outside as parents/caregivers are not allowed inside the school.
- For planning purposes, teachers and administration must be notified prior to the day of your early pick-up.
- At this time, children who are picked up early may not return to the school.

Will nannies of the family be allowed to pick up child?

Yes. All caregivers should be listed on the Emergency Contact sheet as someone that is permitted to pick up your child, including authorized contact phone number.

Can a person who is pregnant drop-off and pick-up?

Yes. We suggest you consult with your doctor for individual recommendations.



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Mask Requirements

Are parents required to wear masks upon pick-up and drop-off?

Yes, even while in the car.

Are children required to wear masks?

- Children under 2 are not allowed to wear masks.
- Children over 2 will wear masks, if feasible.

Is it appropriate and safe for young children to wear masks throughout the day?

- Yes, we have consulted with the Maryland Office of Child Care, CDC officials, and Montgomery County Department of Health and Maryland State Department of Education personnel for guidelines and best practices.
- Children over 2 are encouraged to wear masks, *if feasible*. Exceptions are made for those with pervasive health conditions as defined by the pediatrician.

It seems very difficult even for older children to wear masks, how is it expected that younger children comply?

- We will try our best to encourage the children to keep them on by integrating their use in games.
- Adults will model proper use of masks which will encourage children to do the same.
- Parents are encouraged to work with children at home.

When will children be wearing masks and when will they not?

- We recommend children wear masks all day with the exception of meals and nap time (for those who stay for afternoon enrichment/ rest mats will be separated by 6 feet).

What happens if my child refuses to wear a mask?

- We will not force children to wear masks if they are in distress or uncomfortable.
- Teachers will continue implementing activities to encourage the use of masks.

Are teachers/ ASP staff required to wear masks?

Yes. All day. The only exceptions are when teachers take a break for a snack or refreshment in designated areas only.

What is the mask policy when children are eating? How is risk of transmission minimized in that instance?

- They do not have to wear masks while eating.
- Tables will be positioned 6 ft apart. No more than two children will be seated at one table at opposite ends.



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Why do the children need extra masks?

Children must have extra clean masks in case one becomes contaminated. This is a safety measure.

Will staff/children be required to wear masks outside as well?

Yes, they are required of teachers and we recommend children wear them outside.

Are plastic shields an option for teachers instead of masks?

No. The shield is an extra barrier and can only be used with the mask. It does not prevent the transmission of droplets.

Physical (Social) Social Distancing

Will children and teachers all use the same entrance to the school building?

No, to reduce traffic inside the building and to lower exposure, each class along with their teachers will be assigned separate entrance/exit locations as follows:

Dragonflies – Grafton Street Entrance (glass doors at the end of the parking lot driveway)

Caterpillars – Entrance closest to the sandbox off Oliver Street

Owls / Bees / Administrators – Oliver Street Entrance

Will classes mingle on playground or anywhere else?

- There will be no comingling of classes.
- Individual classes will only interact with other children in their class and their teachers.
- Each class will have their own designated outdoor space not used by another class in a given day.

When children are at play, will they be separated by 6 feet? This doesn't seem possible for young children and also might cause emotional problems. What is the plan for this?

- Teachers will review proper distancing each and every day.
- Teachers have planned activities that encourage distancing.

How are activities going to be structured? Will students essentially play/do activities in their own individual bubble at a table by themselves, 6 feet apart from other children, or will they be able to be close enough to play together?

- Children will spend more time outside as weather permits.
- Props will be used to encourage social distancing such as hoops and play stations setup in the classroom and outdoors.



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How will bathroom time and handwashing time at sinks work to manage social distancing?

- Only one child will use the bathroom at one time. Teachers will wipe down toilet seat, flush handle, sink, and faucet after each use with EPA-approved disinfectant.
- When lining up to wash hands, children will stand six feet apart to wait their turn.

How will play spaces work? How can we ensure that school is still interactive and fun for the children?

- Barriers using shelving and props will be used to divide up the room and separate children. There will be markers so the child will know what space to play in.
- Tables will be placed 6 feet apart and only two children per table at either end.

If a teacher is 6 feet apart how can they meet the emotional need of the child?

- Staff will continue to “hug” children and show emotional support with gestures and words.
- When deemed necessary for the safety of the child, a teacher or staff member may pick up a child (e.g. when child is sick, when child is experiencing severe emotional distress).

Considering social distancing, how will common areas such as playgrounds and auxiliary space be used?

- There will be no comingling of classes.
- Only one class will be permitted to use a designated space each day. No other class will be permitted to use that same space on that particular day. Students will alternate using playgrounds on different days.

What precautions will be taken with floaters who visit different classes?

- Floaters wash their hands before going into another classroom.
- We will try our best to assign floaters in the same room.
- Please be mindful that staff are asked to stay home if they are not feeling well. Moreover, with scheduled days off and personal obligations, we must rely on our floaters for coverage.

How will specials work?

- Per MD Dept of Health guidelines, we have cancelled all specials. Classroom teachers will be incorporating music and PE into their daily curriculum.
- For chapel, families will receive a pre-recorded video, as well as lesson activities, to do at home.

Will there be Early Bird or Afternoon Enrichment Programs?

- The early bird program has been cancelled.



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- For now, afternoon enrichment will only be offered to the Pre-K class and led by the Pre-K teachers.

How will teachers be trained on new safety and health guidelines?

Medical experts will provide training to staff on the proper use of PPE, hand washing, and social distancing measures.

Food Service

How does lunch time work?

- Parents will send their child to school with a packed lunch.
- New – please send your child's lunch in a disposable bag. Please only include non-perishable items as we will no longer be able to refrigerate food.
- Please send a reusable water bottle, with your child's name clearly marked, filled with water.
- Lunch bags will remain in the children's backpacks until it is time to eat.
- Teachers will wear disposable gloves and change gloves after helping each child unpack their lunch.
- We also ask that you send your child to school with a snack. We will no longer be able to offer school-supplied snacks.

Increased Cleaning Protocols (CDC Recommendations)

Do you plan to bring in additional staff to cover extra cleaning?

Yes, we will now have a dedicated cleaner (we will no longer share cleaning staff with the church) who will work from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and will do cleanings throughout the day on high touch surfaces, as well as a deep cleaning of the school at the end of each day to include classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, outdoor spaces.

What other extra cleaning practices will be instituted?

- Children and staff will wash hands for 20 seconds upon entering the building and classrooms, after blowing nose, before and after using the bathroom, before and after administering medicine, before and after handling food or feeding a child, before and after eating, before and after diapering/toileting, and whenever necessary.
- Teachers will wipe down tables before and after eating, before and after art projects and before and after any table work.
- Teachers will wipe down toilet seat, flush handle, sink, and faucet after each use with EPA-approved disinfectant.
- Toys and play objects will be limited in the classroom and will be gathered up at the end of the day for disinfection.



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- Items that cannot be properly sanitized will be removed from the classroom. These items include stuffed animals, wooden toys, and fabric books.

Will you consider removing carpet in the classrooms since hard surfaces are easier to sanitize?

No, we will not. Our carpets are professionally cleaned regularly.

How will you sanitize shared items such as crayons, markers, scissors, etc.?

- Children will have separate kits to avoid cross-contamination.
- Kits will be cleaned regularly.

Exclusion, Quarantine and Closure

What happens when someone in the community (staff, child, parent) is diagnosed with COVID 19?

- If someone in the community is diagnosed with COVID-19, we will follow procedures outlined in the All Saints Preschool Reopening Plan Guidelines 2020-21, including communication to families and staff of the situation.
- Names of individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 cannot be shared per HIPPA laws.

If there is a case of COVID-19 at school, will that classroom and the child be required to stay home for 14 days?

We will consult with the Department of Health for best recommendations.

If a child has a fever and is dismissed from school, will the sibling be sent home as well?

No. If the sibling is not showing similar symptoms, they will be allowed to remain at school.

If a teacher is excluded based on the excluded conditions list (fever, headaches, runny nose, etc.), what would happen in that class? Would a substitute teacher back-fill for the teacher, and if so, is there a large enough pool? Or, would the affected students also be asked to stay home until the teacher can return?

- One of our permanent floaters will fill-in. We have several staff available for this instance.
- If there is a COVID-19 case, we will consult with the Department of Health for further instructions.
- If a staff has symptoms listed in the exclusion policy, staff will be required to consult with their doctor for further instructions including COVID-19 testing.

How will the school handle the inevitable fevers and sniffles not related to COVID-19?

- We will follow our current health policy in the Parent Handbook.



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- In addition to the policy, we will consider the exclusionary guidelines for specific symptoms.
 - We will always err on the side of caution as the health and well-being of our students, families, teachers, and staff is our highest priority.

What is the policy for families that travel?

- Prior to travel, ASP must receive the following information from families:
 - Dates of travel
 - Destination
- **Domestic Travel** - A family that is traveling anywhere in the U.S. that is considered a hot spot by the CDC is required to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- **International Travel** – CDC requires all individuals who travel internationally to quarantine for 14-days upon returning home. This is applicable to all families.

If the children are required to stay home for the majority of a month, are we required to pay tuition?

Yes. If ASP is closed for an outbreak, virtual learning will be offered to all families at a 7.5% discount per day for all virtual days.

Will ASP be checking that children are up-to-date with immunizations (measles, etc.)?

Yes, this is an ongoing requirement for all children enrolled in the program outside of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Will employees be provided with adequate sick leave to allow for a 14-day self-quarantine if they show symptoms?

Yes. Staff have their regular Sick & Safe Leave, as well as increased leave mandated by the Federal government in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act specifically for this purpose.

If you have any questions at all about the information in this document, please contact Lisa Hollingsworth or Sara Tobin.

PLEASE KNOW GUIDELINES OUTLINED IN THIS DOCUMENT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON THE HEALTH CONDITIONS IN OUR AREA AND UPDATED GUIDANCE FROM THE CDC, MD DEPT OF HEALTH, MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPT OF HEALTH, AND THE MD STATE DEPT OF EDUCATION.