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All Saints Preschool Health and Safety Guidelines

INTRODUCTION

All Saints Preschool has created this document in response to COVID-19, a respiratory illness caused by a novel virus that has spread globally. The Guidelines have been constructed to address prevention, detection, and response to occurrences of COVID-19. Throughout this process, we have had to rethink our protocols to provide the safest possible environment for our community of families, children, teachers, and staff.

We continually monitor COVID-19 policies, however, the situation is dynamic and can change from week to week. We follow CDC recommendations and specific guidance from [Montgomery County Office of Child Care](#), [Maryland Department of Health](#), [Montgomery County Department of Health](#), [Maryland State Department of Education](#), and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

We are planning to host in-person school for the 2022-23 school year, but please recognize that what is being presented is based on the latest findings; however, we will remain flexible throughout this process as we recognize this is an ever-changing situation.

LEARNING SCENARIOS

In Person Learning

All Saints Preschool is prepared to provide in person learning, as scheduled, beginning on August 29, 2022. We are confident in our ability to follow the mandated and recommended health and safety protocols as we know young children learn best in person. All Saints Preschool is fortunate to have small class sizes, large classrooms, auxiliary space to spread out, and multiple outdoor options. Our outdoor spaces allow each class to spend time outside in their own dedicated space not used by other age groups during a given time frame.

Virtual Learning from Home

All Saints Preschool is ready to pivot to virtual learning should the situation in our area worsen, and we are mandated for health reasons to close our building. There will be plenty of “live” virtual opportunities for children and teachers to engage, learn and play. We have put in place a dedicated time for teachers to meet with their students one-on-one via Zoom to track progress and make recommendations to parents on what to do at home to strengthen skills.

COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF AND FAMILIES

We will continue to educate ourselves on the latest COVID-19 related findings. Vital information will be shared with the entire community as it becomes available. As always, we will be transparent with our school community when a COVID case is reported to us.



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STAFF TRAINING

Staff will be required to complete COVID-19 training before being cleared for work. The trainings will include: health screening, use of PPE, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting, physical (social) distancing, COVID-19 prevention, and drop-off and pick-up protocol.

We are happy to report that all teachers and administrators of All Saints Preschool have been fully vaccinated.

MASK REQUIREMENTS

Currently we are mask optional. Those who wish to wear a mask will be supported, and the School maintains a supply of KN95 masks for those who need them. The School may implement temporary mask requirements for specific events or for classes, should an outbreak or other conditions that warrant precautions present. Masks may be required for individuals following a positive case or for exposure to a positive individual (see section on Exclusion, Isolation, and Quarantine).

COHORTING

When feasible, there will be no comingling of age-groups. Age-groups will share spaces but will not share spaces with any other age-group. Classes will each have their own separate classroom not shared with any other class. Classes in the same age-group will share playground spaces and participate in specials together. This will help reduce potential exposures and possibly prevent our entire program from shutting down if exposure does occur. Classrooms, play areas, public high contact areas, and offices are cleaned throughout the day and thoroughly at the end of each day.

The exception is our Early Bird program and Afternoon Enrichment classes.

FOOD SERVICE

As always, parents/caregivers will send their child to school with a packed lunch. This year you can send your child to school with a lunch or bento box (we will not require lunches to be in disposable bags). Please only include non-perishable items as we will not be able to refrigerate food.

We do ask that you send your child to school with a reusable water bottle filled with water and clearly marked with your child's name.

Lunch bags/boxes will remain in the children's backpacks until it is time to eat. Teachers will wear and change new disposable gloves after helping children unpack their lunch.



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All surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected before use. All staff and children must wash hands before and after meals. Teachers will wear disposable gloves to assist children with unpacking their lunch.

INCREASED CLEANING PROTOCOLS

Teachers/staff will disinfect high touch services throughout the day. ASP's cleaners will do a thorough cleaning of the school at the end of each day.

We will continue with our increased handwashing and sanitizing protocols.

Disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, tissues, disposable masks and gloves will be available in public areas.

EXCLUSION, QUARANTINE AND CLOSURE

Children and staff will be excluded from school if they register a 100.4-degree fever (or higher) Children and staff are required to stay home, monitor for symptoms, provide a health provider's clearance and, in some instances, show a negative test result to COVID-19 to return to school.

Before Coming to School

It is critical that, if you or your child have one symptom of COVID-19 (fever, cough or difficulty breathing), or even mild symptoms, you or your child should stay home to avoid spreading illness to others. Seek medical attention and report results to Preschool Director immediately to discuss. The same protocols hold true for teachers and staff.

Child or Staff Exhibit Symptoms While at School

If a child exhibits symptoms or runs a fever while at school, we will isolate the child and contact their parents to request the child be picked up as soon as possible. Parents/caregivers should contact their health provider immediately to monitor for symptoms and possibly have child tested. Note: If the sick child's sibling is not showing similar symptoms, they will be allowed to remain at school.

If a teacher exhibits symptoms or runs a fever while at school, teacher will immediately be sent home, and a substitute teacher will back-fill for the teacher.

COVID-19 Diagnosis

If someone is diagnosed with COVID-19 in our community, All Saints Preschool will work with our local health contacts to determine next steps. In accordance with the **CDC**, anyone testing positive for COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days and can return when they are fever-free and symptoms are improving. ASP does not require a negative test result to return to campus after Day 5. However, those with Moderate or Severe symptoms should follow **CDC guidance** regarding the appropriate return date and protocols. **Anyone who was positive should mask for 10 days or until they have tested negative twice, with tests 48 hours apart (per CDC updated guidance).**



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COVID-19 Exposure

In accordance with the **CDC**, those exposed to a positive COVID-19 case do not need to quarantine at home unless the exposure is an individual in the household who is not isolating. Those who are exposed should mask for 10 days. If masking is not feasible due to the age of the child, the child will need to stay home for 10 days.

The Bumblebee and Frog classrooms will follow the same policies as the rest of the School with two exceptions since they are too young to wear a mask: 1) A negative antigen test will be required to return after 5 days of isolation following a COVID-19 infection if returning before a full 10 days. 2) While there is no quarantine required, Bumblebee and Frog students who have been exposed to COVID-19 will be asked to test 3-5 days after that exposure.

TRAVEL POLICY

Please check the latest information on affected areas and abide by any travel health notices.

We understand that during the fall children experience the inevitable fevers and sniffles which will not be related to COVID-19. We will follow our current health policy in the Parent Handbook, as well as the new guidelines outlined above. We will always err on the side of caution, as the health and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff is our highest priority.

IMMUNIZATIONS

In addition to monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms, All Saints Preschool will be checking that all children are up-to-date with their immunizations (measles, etc.).

VACCINATION

ASP does not require COVID-19 vaccinations for students, but the School strongly encourages all students to stay **Up to Date** with vaccinations. The vaccines are safe and remain the best protection against severe illness. Though imperfect in preventing transmission, the vaccines continue to reduce the risk that one can catch and transmit COVID-19. Please submit all vaccine cards to the ProCare Engagement app or email them to Linanne Breslin at linanne.breslin@allsaintschurch.net. Please also stay up to date with influenza (flu) vaccines.

Flu Vaccines

ASP strongly encourages all students and families to receive the flu vaccine each fall or winter.

MONKEY POX

ASP will stay informed about monkeypox but has no specific policies at this time. As of this writing, very few cases have been documented in children; no in-school transmission is known to have occurred.



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HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Our home/school partnership has never been more important in keeping our community healthy. We must work together and trust each other to mitigate health risks through our own personal choices and vigilance in adhering to health standards.

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.